Linked to bribery, BW's Dante Tan flees Australia

Story on PAGE A2

Nani Braganza touted to replace Joey Rufino

By Carlito Pablo

TOKYO (via PLDT)—Press Secre-. tary-on-leave Hernani "Nani" Braganza is being groomed as the next presidential adviser for political affairs, a highly placed source said here yesterday.

Braganza, who has been on leave since April, will replace Secreatary Jose Ma. Rufino, a Lakas party stalwart, the

BRAGANZA/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

More men than women resorting to facelift

NEW YORK—What looks good on the goose looks good on the gander, too, a new survey shows.

Men are turning to plastic surgery and cosmetic procedures to brighten up their appearances at a

MORE/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Friday, June 6, 2003 ★★ 72 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 178 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

'Mahathir also wants GMA to run in 2004'

HER BODY language appears to show President Macapagal exulting in the thrill of it all as she shares center stage with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the 9th International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo. The President is scheduled to arrive in Manila tonight. AP

Sin: I encouraged but did not endorse

By Carlito Pablo *in Tokyo*
and Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*

TOKYO (via PLDT)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has reportedly joined the Macapagal-Arroyo-in-2004 bandwagon.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, two ranking members of the Philippine delegation accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo in her working visit here said Mahathir expressed his position at the two leaders' meeting at the Imperial Hotel yesterday morning, before they addressed a media-sponsored forum on "The Future of Asia."

"Prime Minister Mahathir told the President of the need for a continuity of her leadership," the first source said.

Her reaction? "She just smiled," the source said.

By these and other sources' accounts, Mahathir is the third world leader, after US President George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, to urge Ms Macapagal to reconsider her Dec. 30 declaration that she would not be a candidate in 2004.

Tuesday night in Seoul, a member of the Philippine delegation said Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had advised Ms Macapagal to run, saying she would win.

Yesterday in Manila, Sin admitted giving "encouragement" to Ms Macapagal, but said this "does not mean endorsement."

The source said Mahathir told Ms Macapagal that her continued stay in Malacañang would ensure that the peace process with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front would be put on track.

"He believes that peace can be won under a Macapagal leadership, and he doesn't want to risk seeing a new Philippine leader who may just adopt a war policy against our Muslim brothers in the South," the source said.

According to the second source, Mahathir's endorsement "demonstrates that GMA is recognized as a leader in the region."

"Regional leaders have known

MAHATHIR/ A18

Bush is not absentee voter of RP, Roco scoffs

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Norman Bordadora

THE MAN who wants to succeed President Macapagal-Arroyo is not impressed that two foreign presidents have purportedly prodded her to change her avowed decision not to seek election in 2004.

Asked yesterday by radio station dzRH about his chances against the incumbent in view of the supposed encouraging words from US President George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun (Make that three with Malaysian PM Mahathir), Aksyon Demokratiko's Raul Roco said in Filipino: "What I know is Bush is not an absentee voter. If he or Roh were an absentee voter, they could endorse a candidacy because they're voters in the Philippines."

Roco is in Calgary, Alberta, to meet with the Filipino community there. His staff sent the INQUIRER a transcript of the interview.

The former education secretary and senator is seen as the most likely beneficiary of Ms Macapagal's December 2002 announcement that she would not join the 2004 presidential race. He topped the Social Weather Stations survey released that same month, with 24 percent of the 1,200 respondents nationwide choosing him to succeed Ms Macapagal, who ranked a lowly fourth.

In the radio interview, Roco said having foreign leaders en-

BUSH/ A18

John O advises Erap: Stop it

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Philip C. Tubeza

THE RENEWED BID of ousted President Joseph Estrada to reclaim the presidency has been received with indifference by two opposition senators.

Sen. John Osmeña said Estrada's appeal to the electorate to help him reclaim the presidency would sow further divisiveness and "chaos" in the country. "There's no need to call for (another) people power. Let's put a stop to this," Osmeña said in an interview.

In a statement stamped with the presidential seal, Estrada said the presidency was stolen from him with the collusion of the Supreme Court. "It is now up to you, the Filipino people, to be the judge and give me justice. True justice is all in your hands because power resides in you," he said.

Estrada got a taunting from Malacañang. "If that were so (that he was the legitimate President), why was he not invited by President Bush?" asked presiden-

JOHN O/ A18

GMA calls UN too feeble to be effective, urges major reforms

By Carlito Pablo

TOKYO (via PLDT)—Reform the United Nations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, a staunch supporter of the US-led coalition of the willing, yesterday called for major changes in the world body, noting the need to "make it a more effective development agent and peacemaker."

At a forum sponsored by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc. (Nikkei) media organization, Ms Macapagal painted a dark portrait of the UN Security Council, the organization's highest decision-making committee: "Critics have long described the current setup of the UN Security Council as patently undemocratic, grossly outmoded or mostly impotent."

Referring to the first day of strikes launched by the United States and the coalition of the willing against Iraq, the President said: "March 20 signified a major blow to the power of the United Nations."

The US-led war against Iraq did not have a UN mandate, with veto-wielding France and influential Germany threatening to torpedo any resolution authorizing force.

"Unless its security mandate is updated, the United Nations will continue to limp forward, tasked to do much peacekeeping but too feeble or hand-tied to be effective at peacemaking."

"Perhaps the greatest collateral benefit of the Iraq war that should not be squandered is the opportunity to reform the United Nations and make it a more effective development agent and peacemaker," she said.

But Ms Macapagal said that if the United Nations did not exist, the world would find a need to invent such an international assembly, as a "vital forum in addressing global economic, social and cultural concerns."

"After all, many transnational threats to our societies such as global warming, the spread of new diseases, and drug and arms

GMA/ A18

Cayetano arrives, causes stir in Senate leadership

By Michael Lim Ubac

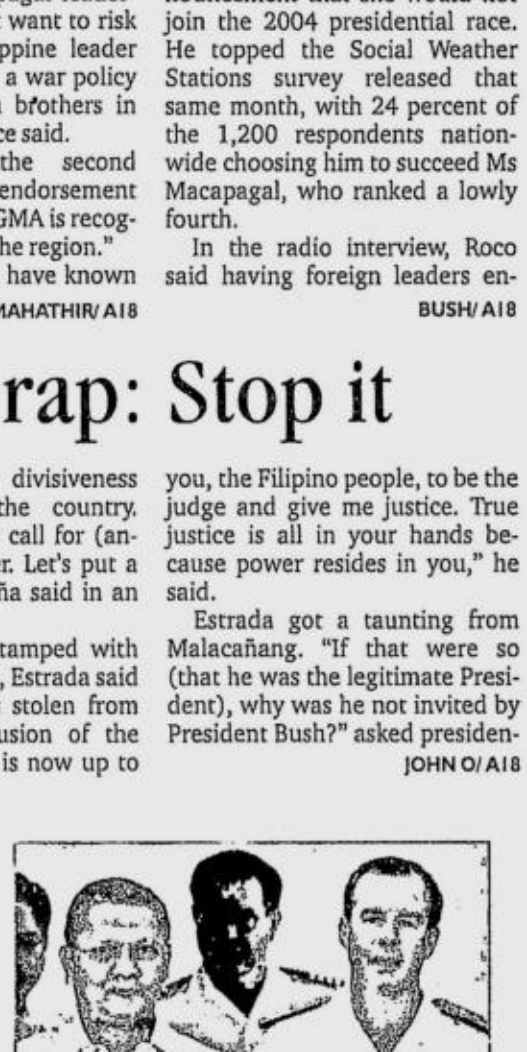
AS THE Senate went on recess starting yesterday, its members wrestled over two issues.

After a prolonged absence due to a liver ailment, Sen. Renato Cayetano quietly arrived yesterday morning from Los Angeles and caused a not-so-quiet discussion about the Senate leadership.

The minority bloc boycotted the last day of the session in an apparent effort to prevent administration senators from having Senate Committee Report No. 66 calendared for deliberations on the floor.

The report prepared by Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order, recommends the indictment of Sen. Panfilo Lacson for high crimes such as kidnapping and drug trafficking.

CAYETANO/ A20



TOP GUN JOAN BONDOC
Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of US military forces in Asia Pacific, pays a courtesy call on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes on Thursday.

'ROAD TO PERDITION'

Graft raps filed vs contractor, 26 PEA execs

By Volt Contreras

"THE GOVERNMENT suffered undue injury, at the very least, in the amount of P532,926,420.39."

With this finding, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday approved the filing of graft charges against 26 government officials and a businessman linked to the alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, a 5.1-km asphalt road in the Manila Bay reclamation area. Its construction was funded by the Government Service Insurance System.

The finding of the Office of the Ombudsman runs counter to the claim of an audit team from the Commission on Audit in April that the project was not overpriced. In its report, the audit team said the total cost of the project was "reasonable and, therefore, not overpriced."

Facing indictment at the Sandiganbayan are 20 officials of the Public Estates Authority, six from the Commission on Audit, and the president of JD Legaspi Construction, which bagged the contract for the controversial 2.3-km. portion

GRAFT/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/06/06/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Lina asked to 'go slow' on drug testing

THE COUNTRY'S mayors yesterday asked Interior Secretary Jose Lina to go slow on the planned drug testing for all citizens saying it was "an unnecessary intrusion into people's privacy."

"We don't want to send the wrong signal that our country is already becoming a police state; we're supposed to be promoting democracy," said Raymundo Roquero, deputy secretary general of the Mayors' League of the Philippines.

Roquero urged Lina to review the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act and conduct dialogues with the sectors to be affected before implementing the measure.

He said Lina should also ensure that the procedure for testing students would be different from that for law enforcers.

Only students suspected of using prohibited substances should be tested while all policemen and soldiers should be examined, he said.

Roquero also asked where the Dangerous Drugs Board, which is chaired by Lina, expected to get the money needed to finance the massive testing.

Lina earlier assured the public that the government would finance drug testing for all citizens, except employees of private companies.

The president of the Social Justice Society party, meanwhile, asked Lina and the DDB to desist from implementing the tests as the Supreme Court had yet to decide on the constitutionality of the provision in the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 requiring mandatory drug testing.

The questioned provision, Section 36, empowers the government, through the health department and its accredited drug testing laboratories, to conduct random drug tests on high school and college students, and officers and employees of public and private offices.

The law also requires mandatory drug testing on persons charged before the prosecutors office with offenses carrying more than six years of imprisonment, as well as candidates for public office, whether appointed or elected.

Alcantara said the provision violates the people's constitutional rights and likened it to unreasonable searches and seizures.

Unreasonable

He said it was an "unreasonable, unwarranted invasion of the individual's right to privacy."

The tests could be used to harass student leaders and union officials "whom school officials or employers consider undesirable."

The SJS petition, docketed as G.R. No. 157870, was filed on May 5 but the Supreme Court has yet to decide on it.

The high court is in recess and is not expected to begin hearing cases until next week.

The chair of the Commission of Higher Education, Bro. Rolando Dizon, said he would implement random drug testing for college students even though he has misgivings about the effectivity of the program.

Dizon said he would wait for the implementing rules and regulations for the random drug testing to be issued by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

He said schools should be given enough time to amend their policies to provide for random drug testing.

But Dizon said he was not sure if drug testing was enough or even the best way to curb drug abuse among students.

The CHEd chair said it was the home rather than the school that is to blame for the drug problem among the youth.

"I think parents have a great role on why their children become drug addicts. They should exercise their parental responsibilities well. They should monitor their children's activities and confront them if there are problems," Dizon said. *Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning*

Remains of Pinoy seamen arrive

THE REMAINS of the six Filipino seamen who died in Miami, Florida after a boiler exploded on the cruise liner they were crewing arrived in the Philippines last night.

The families of the Filipino seafarers met the remains, which arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 10:05 p.m. on Northwest Airlines flight 71 from Miami.

The fatalities were third engineer Ricardo Rosal, assistant reefer engineer Mari John Bautista, oiler Rene Villanueva and stokers Ramon Villarais, Ramil Bernal and Candido Valenzuela Jr.

The remains would be brought directly to their respective provinces, said Aurita Melanco, assistant crewing manager of the seamen's recruitment agency, the CF Sharp Group of Companies.

It was learned that the families of five of the six seamen who died when the boiler blew up on the SS Norway are set to file suit against their employer, the Norwegian Cruise Lines.

A source in the seafaring industry said the families, except for that of Villarais, have agreed to hire the services of American lawyer Bill Hugget, the same lawyer who is representing Abdi Comedia, a Filipino who was injured in the blast and who has filed a claim for $1.1 billion against Norwegian Cruise Lines in a Miami court.

Melanco said the Norwegian cruise firm was "very, very sad and disappointed" with the Filipino families' decision to resort to legal action.

The six fatalities were among the seven crewmen who were killed when the boiler exploded while the Norway was docked in Miami. None of the ship's 2,500 passengers was injured. Most of the 18 crewmen injured were also Filipinos.

Sources said the Norway was an old ship that relied on an obsolete boiler system to power it. *Norman Bordadora and Blanche S. Rivera*

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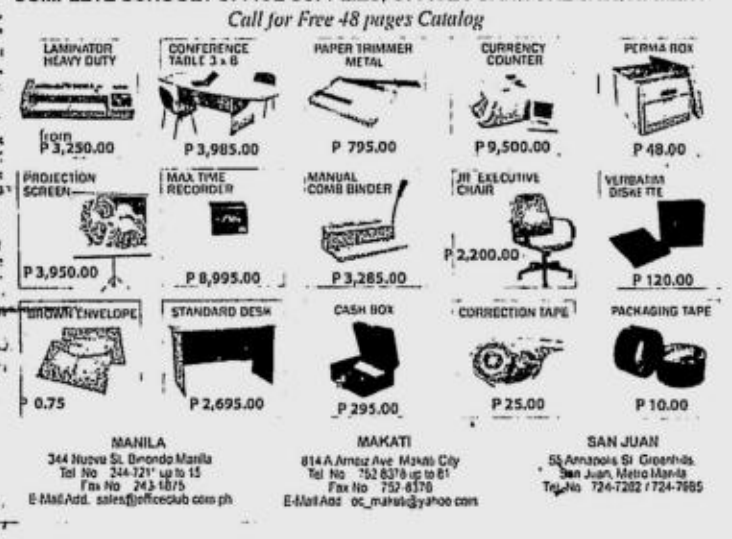

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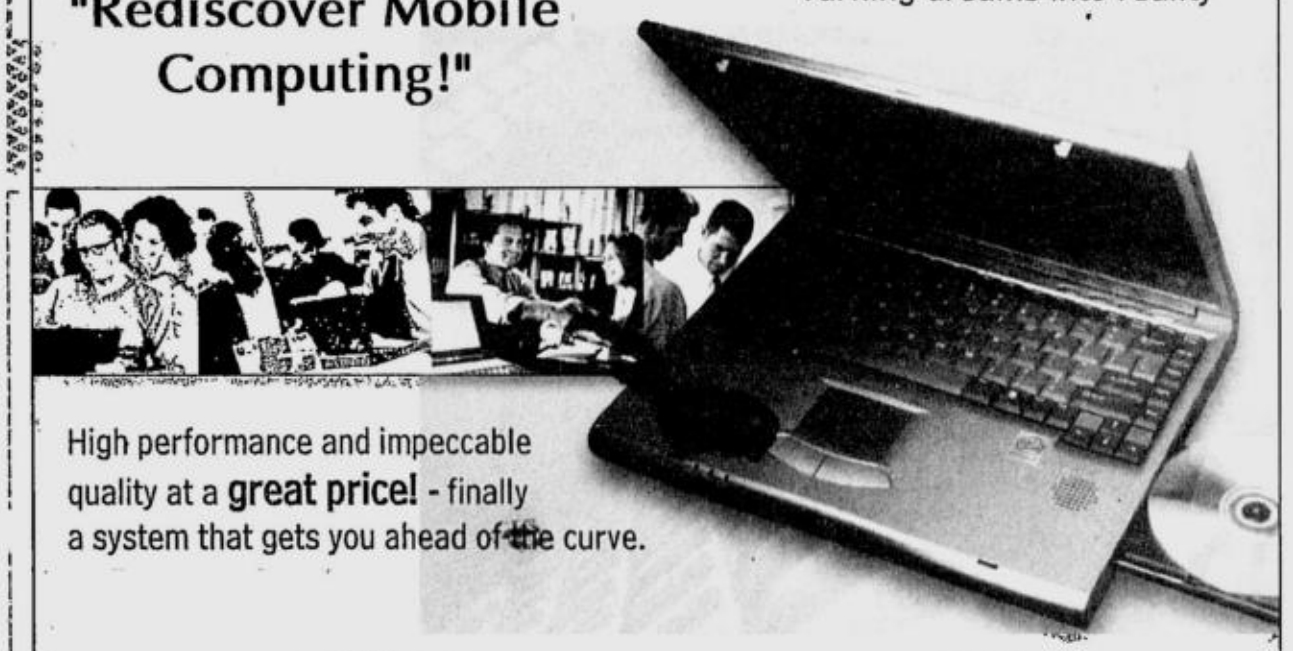
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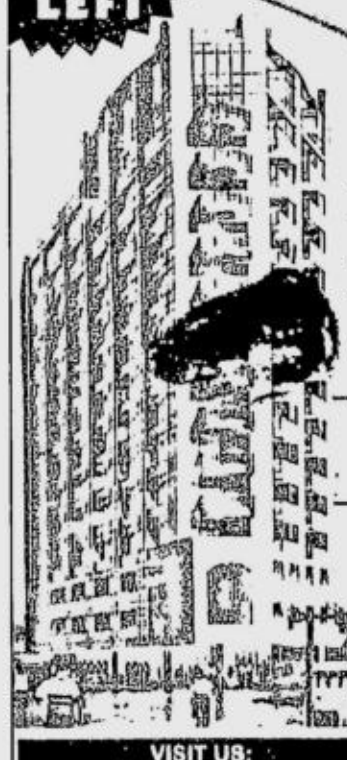
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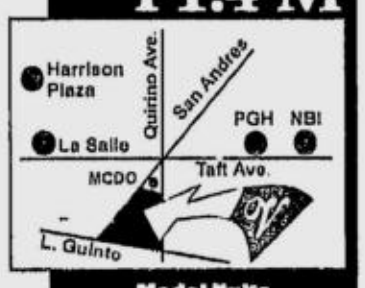

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Marine, 'many' Abus slain in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Marine commanders in Mindanao said the Abu Sayyaf suffered heavy casualties during a nine-hour firefight in Patikul, Sulu on Wednesday, but they said they did not have the exact casualty figures.

Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda, commander of Marines Forces South, said the band of Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Radulan Sahiron and Khadaffy Janjalani suffered "three to four times" the casualties on the government side.

At least one Marine was killed and 11 others wounded during the encounter on Mt. Bagsak in Patikul that ended at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The slain soldier was identified as T/Sgt. Joselito Molacruz.

The wounded, who were airlifted to the Camp Navarro Hospital at the Southern Command headquarters here, were identified as T/Sgt Johnny Padrones, S/Sgt Warlito Abalos, S/Sgt Vic Noora, S/Sgt James Suriaga, Sgt. Dario Garcia, Corporals Daniel Rubio and Alfonso Aggalot and Privates First Class Tirso Noto, Roberto Anding, Rowell Vidallo and John Bayrante. The soldiers' belong to the 39th Company of the 9th Marine Battalion Landing Team.

Col. Nelson Allaga, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade said an Abu Sayyaf member was captured and was being interrogated.

Abalos said they were checking on the reported presence of bandits on Mt. Bagsak when the clash occurred.

"We managed to organize ourselves in a half-moon formation encircling the enemy, but we were not aware that another Abu bunker was located on higher ground," Abalos told reporters here.

Allaga said the fleeing bandits had carried their slain comrades, which explains why the military could not find any bodies.

Main group

He said Mount Bagsak was a big mountain complex covering portions of Panamao, Indanan, Talipao and Patikul, "so they are just moving around."

Allaga said he believed they encountered the main Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu as the firefight would not have been as intense if there were only a few of them.

"Their firearms were also powerful," he said.

Miranda said the military was planning another major operation. The Marines would focus on Panamao and Patikul towns, while the Army would concentrate on Talipao, Indanan and Maimbung.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday welcomed Malacañang's decision to forget about the June 1 deadline it gave for the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to renounce terrorism under pain of being declared a terrorist organization.

Drilon said the ultimatum was a serious stumbling block to the immediate resumption of the peace negotiations between the government and the rebels.

On Tuesday, Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process, said Malacañang did not seriously consider the idea of declaring the MILF a terrorist organization.

He said neither was the Organization of the Islamic Conference of Muslim nations, which monitors the situation in Mindanao, concerned about the MILF's alleged terrorist activities. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Cynthia D. Balana*

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No RP basing for US troops, say defense officials

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday ruled out the possibility of American troops in Asia being relocated to the Philippines as part of a redeployment of forces in the Pacific.

They said the issue was not raised in talks with the visiting Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Thomas Fargo.

"The Philippine situation doesn't change: no permanent basing of United States forces here. The United States is aware of our constitutional constraints, no permanent basing of troops," Reyes told reporters after meeting with Fargo.

Reyes said he and Fargo discussed "creative, innovative ways of cooperation, new ideas in light of the new terrorist threat, particularly maritime security against terrorism."

Fargo said he took up the six-month long $25-million joint training program which is intended to boost the capabilities of both US and Philippine forces "to deal with terrorism."

He is also attending an annual meeting to discuss the various exercises and military contacts that the two countries will have in the coming years.

Golez said he did not discuss the supposed redeployment of US forces in Asia in his own meeting with Fargo.

The Los Angeles Times earlier reported that there was a plan to reposition US forces that could include moving 15,000 of the 20,000 Marines now in Okinawa, Japan to bases in Australia and an increased US military presence in Singapore and Malaysia. *AFP with a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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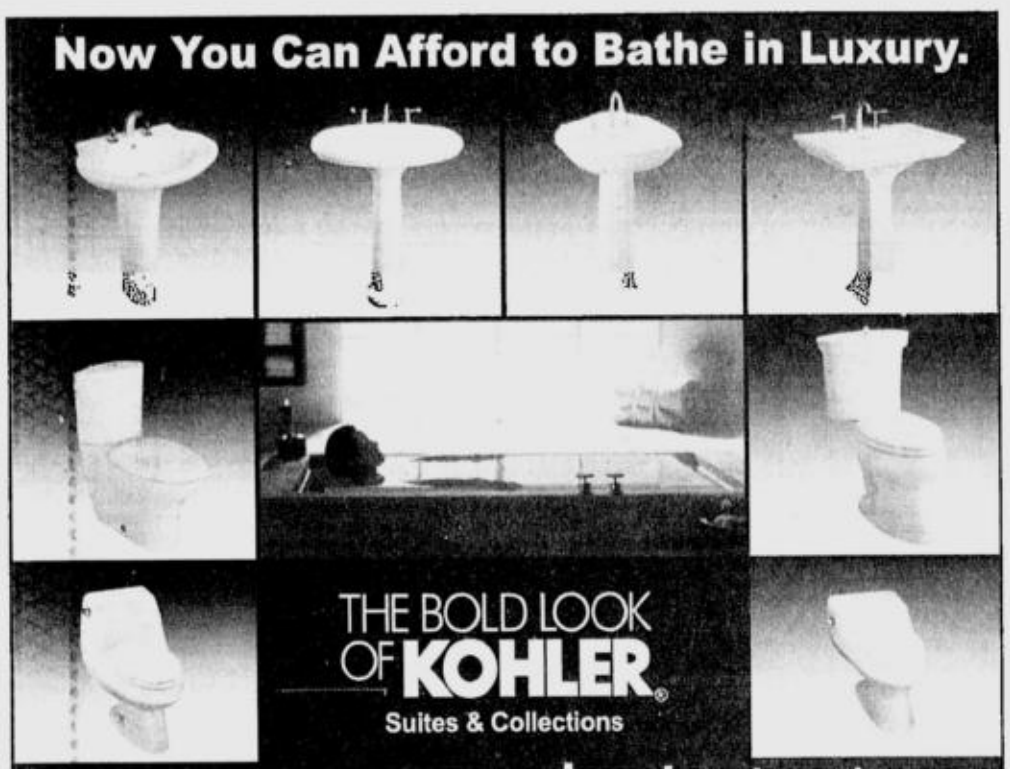

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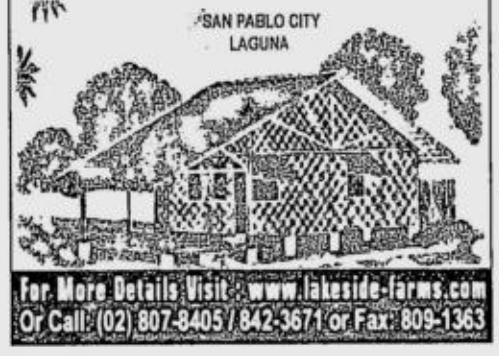

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Antipolo, Old Nabua, Camarines Sur
Suking tindahan: NGO & Sons

Josephine U. Lopinac
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Arena Parorada
Paciano Rizal, Calamba, Laguna
Suking tindahan: PTC Hardware

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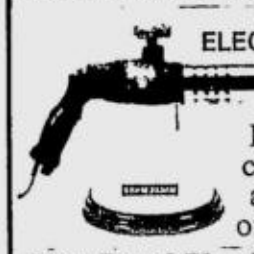

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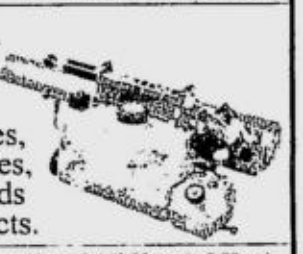

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'Nardong Putik' not a land-grabber, says Bong Revilla

By Leah Salterio

"MY DAD is not a land-grabber."

Action star Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. yesterday defended his father, Sen. Ramon Revilla, from charges by Cavite farmers that he had attempted to evict them from a 25-hectare property in Silang.

"That land belongs to my dad," protested the younger Revilla. "He bought that in the early '70s after he did 'Nardong Putik.' Why do they call him a land grabber? Why does he have to get [back] his own land?"

Hurt

Bong Revilla said his family was hurt by the allegations of the farmers, who had asked the Department of Agrarian Reform to stop Revilla from evicting them.

The farmers belong to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cabangaan. They said they have been tilling the property since 1911. On Wednesday, they staged a picket at the DAR office in Quezon City.

5 centavos

"My dad helped these farmers and their families for years," Revilla said. "They lived on that land without paying my dad even five centavos. Now they are making him look bad."

The 37 farmer-families from Barangay Cabangaan said the senator planned to evict them from the land within six months, or when he needs the property.

The farmers said the senator also threatened to sue them for squatting.

The elder Revilla has reportedly filed an eviction suit against the farmers before the local courts.

Bong Revilla tagged the farmers as "professional squatters."

"They benefited from my dad in the past and this is what our family gets from them in return," he said. "That's so unfair to our family, more so my dad."

Revilla said the land was an investment made by his father after "Nardong Putik," the biography of gangster Leonardo Menesio, made a killing at the box office in 1972.

P. L. Romero, teacher, dies

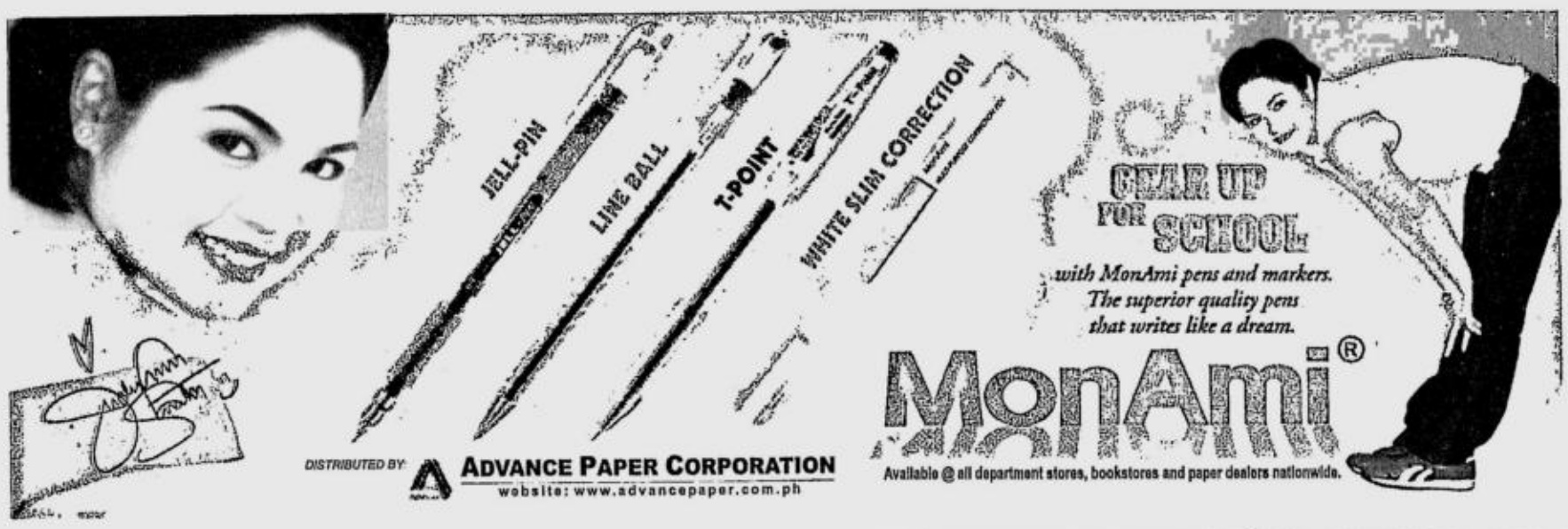
FORMER Manila teacher Pacita Lolarga Romero died of complications from diabetes on June 3 at the Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. She was 76.

Romero taught at the Ramon Magsaysay High School in Manila before moving to the US. She had also taught at the Ramon Avanceña High School and served as librarian and trustee of the National Radio School and Institute of Technology, which was founded by her father Enrique A. Lolarga.

She is survived by her husband Ramon and children Rosemarie de los Reyes, Luz Virginia Ramil, Ramon III, Enrique and Teresita Fabian. Her youngest son Ferdinand died in 1998.

A memorial service was held at Drake and Sons Funeral Home in Chicago on June 5. Another service is scheduled on June 7 at the Philippine International Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Her ashes will be interred at the Greenlawn Memorial Gardens in Windsor.



Veteran scribe opposes confirmation of new RP envoy to Laos

By Alcuin Papa

A VETERAN journalist has opposed the nomination as Philippine ambassador to Laos of businessman Antonio Cabangon-Chua.

Tony Lopez, former Asiaweek bureau chief and publisher of business newsmagazine BizNews Asia, filed his opposition to Chua's appointment before the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

Nevertheless, despite Lopez's opposition, Chua got the CA's nod. Sen. Franklin Drilon, CA chair, announced the confirmation of six new ambassadors, including Chua, the other day.

In his affidavit, Lopez said Chua "lacks the good moral character and integrity required of and essential to the position of ambassador and representative abroad and in international fora of the republic and the Filipino people."

P5 million

He charged Chua with "unlawfully withholding or misappropriating for himself more than P5 million representing my salaries, benefits, bonuses and commissions as my share of the advertising, circulation and bulk subscription revenues of Aliw Publishing, as publisher and editorial director of Graphic Magazine from May 2001 to July 2002."

Chua and his family own 75 percent of Aliw Publishing which puts out the Graphic.

Lopez said Chua also "sullied my reputation and integrity as a professional journalist by requiring me to write stories and cover articles favorable to certain people."

He said one time, Chua made him do a cover story on a newly appointed Supreme Court justice. "It turned out he had pending cases before the high court involving his various businesses."

No basis

In a telephone interview, however, Chua said Lopez had no basis to demand P5 million in salaries and benefits. He said Lopez had signed a quitclaim for P150,000 when he resigned from the Graphic.

He said Lopez's affidavit-complaint was just meant to blackmail him.

He faxed to the INQUIRER a copy of a voucher payable to Lopez for P150,000 representing his "separation pay and other gratuities."

Chua also denied interfering with the editorial content of the Graphic. "I am just the owner. I never did that, never," referring to the stories he allegedly made Lopez write.

R. Holgado; 61

REYNALDO N. Holgado passed away on June 3.

He is survived by his mother Macaria, siblings Conchita Alamar, Conrado, Nora Garcia, Mary, Resty, Yolanda Stark, Luis Ortiz Luis and Edna Abel.

His body lies at his residence in Pola, Oriental Mindoro. Interment will be on June 7 at the Pola cemetery.

Dante Tan flees Australia

DANTE Tan is on the run again.

The businessman at the center of the BW Resources scandal has fled Australia—where he was granted citizenship in May 2002—after a political donation he made to the immigration minister sparked a scandal.

That minister, Philip Ruddock, yesterday told the parliament the Australian police were powerless to stop Tan from leaving the country, even though he is wanted in the Philippines over the largest insider trading case in the country's history. Tan has three standing warrants of arrest.

Ruddock, who is also under fire for questionable visas issued to two other businessmen, said Interpol had been alerted.

The opposition Labor Party has questioned in parliament whether Ruddock's intervention to renew Tan's visa in 2001 was linked to a A$10,000 (P300,000-plus) donation the fugitive made to the minister's election campaign a month previously.

The opposition also demanded to know why Ruddock granted migrants visas after money totaling A$113,000 was donated to the Liberal Party.

Ruddock denied any wrongdoing in granting visas and revealed Tan had left Australia on Wednesday, as the opposition was turning up the heat on the bribery allegations.

Ruddock said Australia had received no extradition request from the Philippines, so it could not stop Tan from leaving the country.

Opposition spokesperson Julie Gillard denied Ruddock's claim that he was the victim of a smear campaign conducted under parliamentary privilege.

"The minister somehow puts the case that we should have remained silent in circumstances where we thought a major corporate fraudster had gotten a visa to remain in Australia and subsequently (obtained) Australian citizenship because of a donation to the Liberal Party," she said.

Gillard claimed a Lebanese businessman, Karim Kisrwani, arranged for Ruddock to issue visas to would-be residents.

The other day, Kisrwani told the Sydney Morning Herald that Tan was "a millionaire businessman" and gambler who had been living at the Crown Casino in Melbourne. *AFP*

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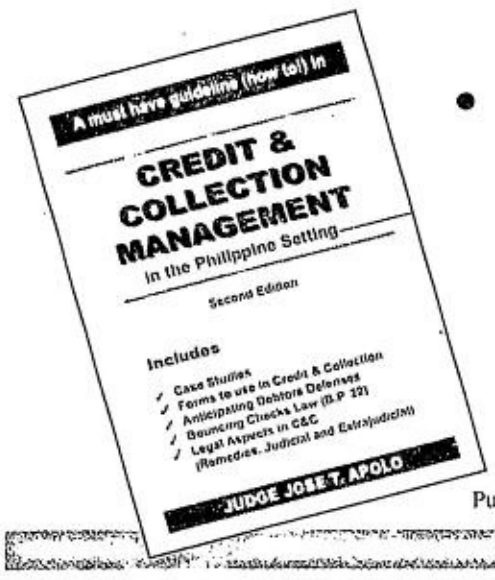

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Friday, June 6, 2003
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 25:13-21
Gospel: Jn 21:15-19

After Jesus and his disciples had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." And a third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was saddened because Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus then said, "Feed my sheep. Truly, I say to you, when you were young you put on your belt and walked where you liked. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will put a belt around you and lead you where you do not wish to go."

Jesus said this to make known the kind of death by which Peter was to glorify God. And he added, "Follow me."

Commentary

Simon, son of John, do you love me? Do you love me so that you know my heart? Do you love me so that you are able to love my own as I love them? Do you love them so as to forget your own needs and comfort to teach them until nightfall? Do you love them so as to do the impossible to satisfy their hunger? Do you love them so as to leave the ninety-nine in search of the one who is lost? Do you love them so as to lay down your life for them? The demands of Jesus on those to whom he entrusts his sheep are great. We pray for our shepherds that they may grow in their love for Jesus and so grow in their love for us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)/REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Insanity as a defense in rape cases—In stark contrast to the clear and categorical declarations of the private complainants, accused-appellant interposes the defense of mental incapacity and argues that at the time of the commission of the offenses, he was bordering on insanity. While this issue is being raised for the first time in this appeal, the same will be addressed consistent with the dictum that an appeal in a criminal case throws the whole case open for review and the reviewing tribunal may correct such errors it may find in the appealed judgment even if they have not been specifically assigned if their consideration, as in this case, is necessary in arriving at a just resolution thereof. The defense of insanity is in the nature of confession and avoidance. Like the justifying circumstance of self-defense, the burden is on the defense to prove beyond reasonable doubt that accused-appellant was insane immediately before the commission of the crime or at the very moment of its execution. In other words, a defendant in a criminal case who interposes the defense of mental incapacity has the burden of establishing the fact that he was insane at the very moment when the crime committed. There must be complete deprivation of reason in the commission of the act, or that the accused acted without discernment, which must be proven by clear and positive evidence. The mere abnormality of his mental faculties does not preclude imputability. Indeed, a man may act crazy but it does not necessarily and conclusively prove that he is legally so. The non-medical opinion of defense counsel that accused-appellant was bordering on insanity hardly measures up to the foregoing yardsticks. In the light of the positive testimony of the victim proving accused-appellant's criminal accountability, this bare and unsubstantiated defense must perforce fail. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Ynares-Santiago, People v. Galigao, G.R. Nos. 140961-63, Jan. 14]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Guessing game

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was furious about reports that she might reconsider her decision not to run for a regular term in 2004, following her successful state visit. The day after the INQUIRER came out with the story, a visibly irritated Ms Macapagal told a reporter who asked her about her political plans, "You are so fixated on 2004. My focus is on what I need to do in the next 14 months." Before that she was more categorical in denying she would seek the presidency in next year's elections. She said she was feeling "so comfortable not being a candidate" since it allowed her to make "many unpopular but correct decisions" and then added: "I think I should stick to that decision."

Apparently that is only for public consumption. In private, it seems that Ms Macapagal is tickled at suggestions that she seek a six-year term. A source who is very close to her told reporters covering the President's visit to South Korea that US President George Bush and Jaime Cardinal Sin had urged her to run. The source quoted Bush as telling Ms Macapagal before they parted in Washington, D.C., that "women and politicians are entitled to change their minds." Sin, on the other hand, was said to have told her: "You run. You will win. The country needs you."

If the President was displeased or irritated on those occasions, the source didn't notice it. On the contrary, Ms Macapagal was said to have told Sin: "Well, you have a prophetic voice."

Was that a compliment or a wish? Obviously most of Ms Macapagal's party mates want the latter. In fact the pressure on her to go back on her Dec. 30 declaration and stand for election seems to be intensifying. Without saying so outright, several members of her Cabinet have been urging her to reconsider. A number of administration senators have come forward with clear endorsements of her candidacy. At least 60 congressmen are said to have signed a petition urging her to run. Her Lakas party mates are saying the decision to run or not to run is not for her alone to make but for the party itself.

While officially Malacañang says the President will stick to her promise, it is clear that even people who are very close to her believe she can be "persuaded" to change her mind about her political future. They are working double-time to stir up a clamor for her to run and project a groundswell of support for her candidacy.

Will she or will she not throw her hat into the ring? Nobody is betting against it. She may not talk like a candidate yet, but she certainly has been acting like one in the last few months. And now that those around her, except for her official spokesperson, are urging her to run, what would be surprising is if she didn't.

Most recent surveys say Ms Macapagal is a sure loser if she runs next year. But that's probably because most people believed she had taken herself out of the race. But now with the administration trumpeting the success of her state visit to the United States and the support she is getting from Bush and other world leaders as well as the Catholic bishops, her approval rating may just shoot up significantly. When that happens, we can be sure that another political promise will be broken.

Simultaneous action

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE ISRAELI government's conditional approval of the so-called roadmap to peace was hastily called "historical." That word is often better avoided. The diplomatic dustbins in the Middle East are full of "historical" plans which in the end have amounted to nothing.

The roadmap—as the name says—only gives directions about how to proceed, if both parties possess the required good will. Only there are no guarantees for the existence of good will on either side.

The US-led roadmap does have a unique feature in that it requires simultaneous action from both sides without allowing them to wait for the other side to make a first move. Sharon's government has so far refused to do anything before there is a complete stop to terrorist strikes. The Palestinians, in turn, have said that the brutal Israeli occupation has made it impossible for them to persuade extremist groups to a cease-fire.

The new Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas should now quickly gain the upper hand with terrorists, which not only exist among the ranks of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, but also fairly close to his own government.

The task will be impossible if life in the occupied regions remains miserable and the population only sees him as someone who is doing the dirty job for Israel. ***Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki (Finland)***

A funny thing happened before the NPC elections

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT is happening at the National Press Club—which will hold its election of officers day after tomorrow—would be funny if it isn't so sad and infuriating. A majority of the board members impeached the president (shades of the national government!) but they were banned from entering the Press Club building by the newly appointed club manager. Imagine that, the acting president and the majority of the board members cannot enter the club the NPC owns and which they are supposed to be running. They cannot force their way in because the manager (who was not elected by the members but was appointed only last month by a mock assembly) has hired security guards, paid for with NPC funds, both to keep the acting president and his allies out and to protect the ousted president.

Why has the NPC come to this sorry state of affairs? Because of the elections (it's really like the national government, isn't it?).

Bone of contention is the roster of voters. Membership in the NPC has increased tremendously and many of the veteran newsmen don't like that because many of the new members, they claim, are fake newsmen they derisively call "haosiao."

Why were they admitted? Because they are voters, no different from the flying voters that bedevil our national and local elections regularly. These dubious members were sponsored by candidates. As the election nears, there is a surge of membership. Alleged newsmen from the provinces used to be flown in and housed in Metro Manila hotels by candidates. Every night, they were wined and dined at the NPC bar and restaurant. Talk of vote-buying and election over-spending.

The NPC has a constitution and by-laws that stipulates who can be members. But it is so easy to go around these stipulations. All that is needed is a certification by the editor of a newspaper or news director of a radio and TV station, that the applicant is a staff member or correspondent of his news organization. And because the news organization usually has its own candidates in the NPC elections, and the applications are brought to him for his signature by the candidates themselves, the editor signs the certifications even if they are false. Some organizations accept any Juan, Pedro or Jose who applies as a correspondent. After all, they don't pay him unless he has a story published. And most of them apply only to be accredited to the organization. Would you believe that one small tabloid has 100 correspondents in its roster? Others have more. The NPC roster has more members from tabloids, company publications, defunct publications, never-heard publications and radio stations, than from the big, established Metro Manila broadsheets.

After a hard day's work, journalists like to relax with friends and colleagues to banter and unwind. The NPC used to be that watering hole. In fact, the NPC was set up precisely for that. There was food and drink; there was music; there were books, magazines and newspapers in the library; there is a billiard table long before Efren "Bata" Reyes came into the picture. And there was pleasant company.

Not anymore. Members complain that there are now so many strange faces in the club. Newsmen like to have at least nodding acquaintance with everybody in their vicinity, but now they complain they don't know many of the people they sit next to in the NPC bar and restaurant. They therefore go instead to other favorite places elsewhere in Metro Manila and the NPC is left to the haosiaos.

Responsible members want to attract the genuine journalists back to the NPC and restore it to its glory days. But how do you do that unless you get rid of the haosiaos? Imagine, even drivers and janitors of news organizations are regular members of the NPC. And characters not even remotely connected to journalism are also regular members and are therefore voters. That is now the bone of contention between the two groups of incumbent NPC officers. The membership list has reached the court, as well as the date of the election which the court has postponed at least once. Barring any hitches, it will finally be held this Sunday, June 8.

The press regularly criticizes the government for corruption and irregularities in running the bureaucracy. The government might as well reply: Look who's talking? You press people can't even run your own club efficiently.

Indeed, the NPC has been run like hell by Filipino press people. Its total debt from unpaid electric, phone and water bills and real estate taxes has ballooned to P20 million. Every year, there are fund-raising activities but the debts keep growing bigger, not smaller.

Why not, when NPC records are in a mess. In fact, there are no records to speak of. Previous resolutions, contracts, minutes of meeting, files of members, etc. are missing.

They're not the only things missing. There is no credible audited financial statement as required of corporations annually. And, according to NPC acting president Anthony Giron, P1.7 million in club funds has remained unaccounted for. Singer-composer Jose Mari Chan had donated P1 million for an NPC trust fund. Before that donation even reached the NPC coffers, somebody took P200,000 as "commission." Another amount was deducted and only slightly more than half of Chan's donation was left.

Before I left as NPC president years ago, I left a P250,000 trust fund donated by the Asian Wall Street Journal and banker Ray Orosa, with the condition that it would be used exclusively for the training of journalists at the AWSJ in Hong Kong, and that the permanent trustees of the fund are Orosa, a representative of the AWSJ, and the incumbent NPC president. Since that was many years ago, that fund ought to be in the millions of pesos now because of the interest earnings. But the present NPC leadership cannot say where that money went.

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KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic of next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila is the impeachment rap against the Supreme Court justices. Panelists: former Sen. Rene Saguisag and a representative of the Supreme Court.

Maid-less in Manila

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ with interest and no small amount of amusement Elsie Kalaw Santos' account of being maid-less in Sunday's Lifestyle. I can understand her story completely, our family having had the same experience.

I was about to say there that I sympathized with her plight completely, but that is a wrong way to put it. She neither needs sympathy nor is her current situation a plight. Once you "survive" being without a maid, you realize how liberating the feeling is. It is not a curse, it is a blessing.

Santos has been without a maid for 12 years, we have been so for 10. Before that, like most middle-class families in Metro Manila, we had a procession of maids, most of whose names, and sometimes even faces, I can no longer recall. Some lasted as briefly as Santos' last maid—her own departed after only a day with the reason, or excuse, that the four kids she left behind in the province were sick—some others lasted for years.

I do seem to recall that a family member suddenly being stricken ill was cited once or twice as a reason to go, or to take a leave with a 50-50 chance of returning. Could it have been true? *Ambot*, as the Warays say. Maybe it was true, maybe, as some wags opined with dour certainty, the maid was applying for some job (waitress seemed to be the preferred option) and would come back if she failed to nail it. But from where we stood, there was no reason to hold on to someone who wanted to go for whatever reason. You were only inviting trouble, or sloppy work.

I suspect most of them really were on the lookout for better work, if the pay was sufficiently bigger to make up for the risk. Who isn't? A friend of mine, an economist, once calculated that the wages one received from factory work or from waiting in an eatery were so much less in real terms—discounting room and board and the food one ate—than the fees one got as a maid. But he failed to reckon the psychic income from "free labor." There is a difference between being an *utusan* in an eatery and an *utusan* in a home. That difference may strike the middle class only as a nuance but it yawns like a chasm to the poor. In any case, I've always appreciated people's desire to better themselves.

Our end of the road was far less dramatic than Santos'. We just read the writing on the wall after a succession of very brief stays by several maids. Times had changed, the days when Filipinos abroad could still envy the ones they left behind for having someone to pick up after them were over. So we took the plunge—or so it seemed at the time, the sensation not being unlike flinging oneself into the void.

We landed on solid ground almost immediately. Except for a few minor discomforts at the start, our shift to a new lifestyle turned out to be less than painful. Of course, we had no small amount of advantages in this respect.

First off, we lived in a small place without a yard. Our Bliss unit is 72 square meters, which poses no daunting task to clean. The problem in fact had always been where to put up the maid. But that's the other advantage we had: We were a small family—my wife and I and two kids. An addition of one more human being, while making the place a little full, did not make it cramped. Since most everyone was out of the house for the better part of the day anyway—except me since I wrote at home—we did not have to bump into one another.

We had yet another advantage: we lived at the back of SM and were surrounded by eateries. So there was no problem finding places to eat in. An even bigger advantage is that my wife is an excellent cook, and can whip up a dish in no time. I myself learned to cook in time—which is one of the benefits of not having a maid—and eventually read and watched books and movies like "Like Water for Chocolate" and "Chocolat" with new levels of appreciation. Though I must confess that I have not gone beyond frying and sautéing. But my repertoire has expanded from eggs and Monterey *sisig* to assorted vegetables and garlic mushrooms, from survival food to *pulutan*. I am happy to report that I have gone past the stage when I know when meat is cooked. I have even gone past the stage when I know when meat is overcooked.

The dishwashing chores we distributed among us, though I can't always say evenly. The general principle is each one washes his own plate, except on those occasions when we eat together. The last time I washed dishes before I picked up the habit again 10 years ago was at the UG (underground) house I sojourned in shortly after martial law. The motivation then was *disiplina, kasama*, the motivation later was no choice, *pare*. Dishwashing is not as therapeutic as washing vinyl records, particularly with greasy pans, but somebody's got to do the dirty work, literally.

For the last three or four years, a cleaning woman just comes to the house twice a week on mornings to do the laundry. Otherwise, we're on our own, and we haven't just managed, we've thrived. It's been good for the children, particularly the second one, who grew up pretty much without a maid. I can't always say he's entirely responsible and independent, but that's another story.

These days, I can't understand it when Filipinos abroad tell me the kin they left behind are lucky to have maids. I've seen some pretty spoiled brats in this country, kids who run around ordering maids to do this and that, or the maids themselves doting on them, wiping the smallest bead of sweat from their backs and picking up every little scrap they leave behind, and I can't say I envy them. I worry for the country they are going to inherit. Come to think of it, there and then you have a Freudian explanation for the irresponsibility of Filipino leaders.

But that, too, is another story.

Cost-benefit accounting is imperative

MANY Metro Manilans lauded the Metro Manila Development Authority, and of course Chair Bayani Fernando, for making the traffic flow more smoothly around the Elliptical Circle by getting rid of the island which used to separate the inner and outer lanes of that huge rotunda. Indeed, as a result of that simple innovation, the traffic there has eased considerably even during peak hours.

What the happy car owners and motorists however probably do not realize is that the rotunda now poses a serious danger to pedestrians who need to cross the street to use the park inside the circle. After all, the park, with its trees, bicycle lanes, skating rink, museum, restaurants and open spaces, is frequented by joggers, children and many poor and middle-class citizens who have come to enjoy the cheap and wholesome recreation the park provides. When I drive around the circle, it is not uncommon for me to see pedestrians with their terrified faces, sometimes with children in tow, clumsily negotiating the very wide street amid speeding cars. The only place around the huge circle where pedestrians are able to cross with reasonable safety is in front of the Quezon City Hall where there is sometimes a traffic officer posted to make incoming vehicles give way to pedestrians.

After the "successful" traffic solution at the Elliptical Circle, the MMDA is now determined to get rid of the islands separating the service road and the main avenue of Katipunan Road also in Quezon City. This section of Katipunan Road fronting Ateneo University and Miriam College, is part of C5 and is also a traffic bottleneck especially on schooldays. The MMDA's plan is being opposed by concerned residents and students since removing the islands would mean cutting down a number of trees lining the road. The aesthetic, health and environmental values of the trees unfortunately do not seem to figure in the balance of costs and benefits when it comes to solving the traffic situation as far as the MMDA is concerned.

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

These examples show us how badly we plan the solutions we come up with to cope with our urban problems. What these solutions say is that we are willing to endanger people's lives and health to solve the traffic problem the easy way. Upon closer look, what it really means is that it is all right to endanger the lives of certain people for the convenience of others. Economists and social scientists who conduct social appraisal of projects, or cost-benefit analysis, know this very well. Any project is bound to benefit some and disadvantage others and therefore when society gives its consent to a project, it is actually making a decision as to whose welfare is more important: the pedestrians' or the motorists', the residents' or the road users'.

While putting the issue in this admittedly simplistic way masks the often complex tradeoffs and valuation problems involved in social and environmental accounting, the main insight here is that social and environmental costs are often not fully accounted for, or even considered, when we plan infrastructure projects. Accounting for these social and environmental costs does not mean that we completely abandon all infrastructure projects since all of them are bound to have such costs. What we are saying is that we need to take full account of these costs, recognize them as a responsibility of society in exchange for the expected benefits of a project, and plan for fair and adequate compensation or mitigating measures for those who would be consequently disadvantaged.

I spoke of trees and pedestrians in my above examples, but I would say that the social and environmental costs are by far less severe in these cases compared to those involved in involuntary relocation of urban poor families. The expansion of the north and south rail systems is a major infrastructure investment expected to necessitate the removal of some 60,000 families. Certainly the project is beneficial and even necessary. But the question is: do the project planners and decision-makers have some estimate of the value in economic terms of the social costs involved—the loss of property, assets, access to schools, health facilities, and most importantly, access to jobs of people who are already quite poor as it is? Getting more directly to the point, when many poor people, in this case by the thousands, are made worse off by a project, are the social costs involved made part of the project's costs so that enough resources are made available to compensate and rehabilitate the affected people? Putting it another way, are those expected to benefit from the project also prepared to share in the burden of paying for these costs?

From the experience of many projects we have monitored, I know that the answer is a big no. The gross inequity of the situation stares us all in the face: poor people who can least afford to lose more end up paying. And because of the absence of an honest-to-goodness accounting of social costs, we do not really know whether society as a whole really stands to benefit from a given project. The loss to the welfare of 60,000 families would translate into an enormous amount of resources if the government tried to restore these families to the level of income and welfare which they enjoyed prior to being dislocated. But in this country, we do not try to restore lost welfare, we simply pretend the loss does not exist and let the affected people bear the losses. This is the reason project planners do not bother to account for the social and environmental costs of infrastructure projects: nobody wants to pay for them. Only the affected people, for lack of a choice, pay for them, and pay dearly.

Beyond the comfort zone

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SAN FRANCISCO—"This is not my comfort zone!" I remarked the minute we stepped on to the deck of the activity center high in the hills of Santa Cruz, a city about two hours' drive from here.

Even before we fellows of the International Family Planning Leadership Program left our respective countries, we'd been told about the "ROPES Course," which would require comfortable shoes and clothes that could be soiled. "I know about these things. You'll be asked to climb ladders and balance on tightropes, blindfolded," my husband warned. He'd taken part in one such "team-building activity," all the rage among corporations in the past decade or so, though he'd been exempted from the more strenuous (and dangerous) challenges because of a heart condition. Given my state of (un)fitness, we both wondered if I'd be up to the physical demands of such a course. "If you think you can't handle an activity, just tell them," the hubby advised. Indeed, materials sent to us promised that "everyone will participate within his or her own comfort level."

When I told Roger Shaff, the program director, about my husband's warning and my determination not to step an inch over the narrow borders of my comfort zone, he smiled indulgently and remarked: "Oh, but we'd like to nudge you just a little bit beyond your comfort zone."

Well, I thought, as I beheld the harnesses and helmets piled into color-coded mounds on the deck, this is not just a bit beyond my borders, it's six time zones away!

Still, the setting was lovely—hilly terrain blanketed with brush and towering trees—the air chilly but warmed by a bit of sun, so the day didn't seem all that grim. Or so I hoped.

* * *

REBECCA, one of the founders of the Synergy team that's been conducting the "Ropes" course for many years, promised to challenge us and stimulate us and "teach you things about yourself that you may not have known before!" Yeah right, I thought, like how many muscles can be strained and bones broken by falling off trees!

But first, our muscles and our ability to work as teams were tested in the "Spider's Web," a game that involved, far as I could tell, getting as many of our team members through a web of ropes lashed to wooden poles without any one of the suckers chosen by the team touching or getting entangled in the ropes.

It was only after many minutes of heated strategizing that all the teams realized that it was only by negotiating with and among one another could we beat the system, or the rules, as it were. So complex wheeling and dealing ensued, marking out areas of entry and exit for the designated chumps and figuring out a complex choreography of lifts and shoves to get as many team members as possible in and out of the web.

But all this was for naught, it turned out. Once the game began, chaos reigned, with entire teams barging into the inner sanctum and ignoring calls to blindfold team members who'd touched the ropes. We'd been able to work as teams, all right, but we failed to play the game, at least by the rules.

* * *

WHEN we reached the next area, though, we quickly realized that there was no longer room for fooling around. Not if we wanted to live, that is.

To quote my teenage daughter, the first time I caught a glimpse of the "Giant's Ladder," all I could say was: Oh. My. God. No waaaay.

The ladder was actually a stack of thick rough-hewn lumber lashed together at almost equal distances and tied halfway up the trunks of gigantic trees. To reach the Giant's Ladder, one would have to climb up a smaller ladder, skitter across a thin cable then step on to the bottom rung. A team won points for every member who was able to stand on the bottom rung, then gained more points for every higher rung reached by a member.

Were they crazy? Not as crazy as the IFPLP fellows, apparently, because most of us agreed to take up the dare. Perhaps the main reason was that the facilitators proved it was completely safe—but only if one's team members on the belay, that is, the system of ropes attached to the harness that made it possible for one to safely "fly" through the air in the event one fell off the ladder, were paying attention and keeping their eye on you.

* * *

BECAUSE I have a fear of heights and my legs have a tendency to cramp when panicked (*oo na, tama na ang* excuses!), I decided to bow out of the "Giants Ladder" exercise and concentrated on the belay. When I saw my co-team members ace their practice climbs, I began to wonder if I didn't have it in me, after all, to smash through my comfort zone boundaries. But by then I couldn't join the climbers as the contest had begun in earnest.

So when we moved on to the next activity, which involved climbing a ladder then clambering up a tree pole 50 feet up, stepping on to a small round platform at the top, then letting go and trying to swat a ball hanging by a cable some feet away, I decided I'd give it a try.

Becky, our guide, wanted each of us to say how far we would go, what we wanted to happen, and how we wanted our team mates to help. When my turn came, I said I was aiming just to get beyond the ladder and reach maybe two or three higher rungs, that all I wished to happen was that I could get off the pole without embarrassing myself, and just wanted my team mates to cheer me on loudly.

I guess you know that by the mere fact that you're reading this, I survived the ordeal. I reached my stated goal, but had a hard time letting go of the pole, so that when I finally found the guts to push away to fly, I found that I had scratches on both arms. But you know what? I also found that the only way to get over one's fears is to go ahead and conquer them.

The right to say so

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THE SLIGHT shown by Filipino officials to Japanese Ambassador Kojiro Takano's forthright statement about the Philippines being a dangerous place to be in these days put too much unintended meaning and slant to what could be a sincere effort to help out the Philippines in its peace and order drive. A similar remark on the Philippine justice system was made by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone last year. While some strong reaction was voiced to what seemed to be the US diplomat's subtle interference in internal affairs, Ricciardone was spared from cutting remarks from President Macapagal-Arroyo. This time Takano had it coming when the President wished that "he would catch up on his sleep." Her thinly veiled sarcastic and patronizing remark to the Japanese envoy was probably lost on the diplomat who perhaps is not very familiar with the Filipino's sense of *amor propio*. The remark at issue also had an element of inappropriate timing, given the hangover of a successful US state visit in which the President and the country are basking. Still, it does not remove the fact that the Japanese envoy's more than candid statement might have been warped out of proportion, and suggests that the Japanese government (the host of Ms Macapagal's current visit) and people will readily take Takano to task for what the critics consider as an ill-considered statement.

Worse, reports presume that embarrassment will be more for Japan than for the Philippines, rather than equally felt.

Basic knowledge of Japanese culture may recast Philippine official reaction in a better light. First is the presumed natural politeness of the Japanese who would rather be oblique than confrontational in a social situation. Traditional diplomacy buttresses this by being quiet, observant and coy in stepping into a political quagmire through making controversial statements. Second is the complex structure of the Japanese mind reflected in its language that US diplomat Edwin O. Reischauer describes as "beating around the verbal bush" rather than going into the core of feelings in the hope that the other party won't be hurt. The ways of thinking and speaking and translating thoughts to English for the Japanese are, sad to say, not always compatible. When these thought and expression barriers are not properly managed, it can result in unintended diplomatic *faux pas* now attributed to the envoy. Though I am neither a linguist nor psychologist, some years of my life and interaction I had with the Japanese has taught me that their statements, to be more fully understood, have to be interpreted not only by the verbal cues but more so by the non-verbal ones. Not being able to sleep is not meant to disparage the country per se. It has a bearing on the role of being a diplomat and trying one's best to improve relations between the two in the face of difficulties, such as terrorism. Why not some assurances, rather than flak, from the host country? Takano's singular fault was that he aired his views before an audience of foreign correspondents who are expected to readily commit such comments to the wires. That the Department of Foreign Affairs made him account for such a statement is also a sign that not enough monitoring is made of sentiments and views of newly posted diplomats a year or so after their arrival. Such mechanism could have assuaged and comforted some diplomatic anxiety which is common in a threatened and terror-filled world. The Philippines is incidental to such perspectives. There is no reason to believe that the same comments would not be made in other equally or more dangerous cities and countries if the situation so warrants. I doubt whether their governments would quibble on such realistic judgment. To do so only calls attention to ineffective and shallow political understanding.

Diplomacy in the post-Cold War era has taken more the qualities of what Robert Moore, a diplomat from Guyana, describes as public diplomacy which started to rise in the world stage following World War II. It means an expository, expressive exercise of intelligence and tact to world affairs. Public diplomacy now makes use of national and global fora to get at the bottom of international affairs. It is also known as "Third World diplomacy" and gives poor, developing countries suffering from poverty and inequities the right to demand concessions from the richer countries in the halls of the United Nations and other international bodies. It is more effective at times than quiet diplomacy because it doesn't evade contentious issues.

But public diplomacy is no longer the prerogative of poor, developing countries. Because terrorism grips the whole world, stakeholders in the global peace process including economic powers, have the right to speak out their concerns. They have the right to say so. And we have the choice whether to listen or not.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales spent three years as a Monbusho research fellow in Osaka, Saitama and Tokyo, Japan in the '80s and '90s. She is now on a sabbatical leave from UP Diliman where she teaches Political Science and International Studies.

Important lesson

HIGH BLOOD

Dulcedehlia S. Almoradie

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I NEVER liked to look at myself in the mirror because I do not have a good body. I am skinny and have a very bad posture. I do not like the way I look. I was called a crooked toothpick. My eyes, nose, lips, complexion and hair are a disappointment to me. They are not something I am proud of.

I did not mind it so much when I was a child, but as I grew older I tried to improve my looks. I put on lipstick and make-up. I went to the beauty parlor for hair grooming. I did some exercises because I envied models and dreamt of having their good figures. They had nice kissable lips, beautiful dreamy eyes, good cheekbones, perfect noses, flawless skin, long legs, small waists and lovely hair. They were photogenic and had wonderful smiles with perfect teeth. They had good body posture and carried themselves well and they had adorable breasts.

My disappointment about my looks increased more than a thousandfold when one day I noticed a small lump on my breast. My husband insisted that I go to the Cancer Society for a check up and a mammogram, after which the doctor said that it was imperative that I go to a surgeon for a mastectomy because he suspected cancer in my right breast. A week after the examination, I had a biopsy during an operation. Out of 17 lymph nodes that the doctor removed from me, he found out that one had metastasized so I had to have a radical mastectomy. The doctor prescribed chemotherapy treatment after the operation but I could not tolerate it. I would faint and throw up almost every five minutes after a shot so the doctor scheduled me for radiation and I was given a lot of medication to take instead. Recuperation was not easy. It was back breaking to lift my arm slowly up the wall for exercise every day. I was able to raise it up above my shoulders after a while.

It was sad, devastating and so depressing. I realized that it was not possible for me to have the beautiful body that I had always dreamt of in spite of the small exercises that I did. I could never wear a bathing suit and look good. I felt that a big part of my body had been removed, like a leg or an arm, and I felt like an incomplete woman. The frustration within me was so great that I cried myself to sleep at night. I felt that the world had crumbled in on me. The thought of dying or having the cancer recur was always in my mind and it was not easy.

However, life went on and I prayed and hoped that I would be able to get over all the sadness and depression. This slowly went away, and I later realized that a beautiful face and body are not the most important thing in my life anymore. I learned to accept that God had given me this problem because He knew I would be able to handle it. I am now happy and have learned to live as a normal human being. I have stopped being envious of those models with beautiful bodies. I learned that happiness lies in accepting myself as I am and not in yearning to have what others have. People see the happiness that is in you and share the beauty of mind that you give them. God created me in His own image and I should accept and be thankful for it. I do not have to dream of an adorable face and a beautiful figure. I have only one life to live and I should love and live it the way He has ordained. When I look in the mirror and see my imperfections, I think of all the people who have more imperfections than I have, and I feel even more blessed. Some people are blind and cannot see, deaf and cannot hear. Others do not have legs and cannot walk. There are people who cannot talk. I do not have all these imperfections, so what more could I ask for?

Dreaming of a body beautiful and beautiful breasts is a thing of the past for me. Being healthy is now the most important thing in my life. I don't dream of looking good in a bathing suit anymore. I realize that people look at you without noticing the ugly features that you have. They see you as a person and do not notice whether you have an imperfection on your face or body. It is how you project yourself to them. Body beautiful or not, beautiful or ugly face, love is what we should share with everyone because the love that you project is the love that is returned.

My body may not be good to look at but I live with it. I love my eyes. They may be crossed and I may see double but I can see the whole world with them. I love my nose. It may be pug or crooked but I can smell and I can breathe with it. I love my mouth and my lips. They may not be kissable but I can eat, talk and communicate with them. I love my arms and my hands. They may not be lovely arms and hands but I can use them to do things that are needed to live my life. I love my legs. They may be skinny and crooked but I can use them to walk and run. I love my body. I am happy with it because it enables me to live a beautiful life.

The most important thing in our life is taking good care of one's body. Not because we want to look good but also for health reasons. We have to take pains to achieve good posture and good looks. We have to eat good food, take vitamins, exercise and try not to abuse ourselves.

Let us be careful with our health. We should have physical check-ups at least once a year. Women should go to the doctor regularly and have mammograms and examine their breasts. I never thought I would have cancer in them until I did. We can get rid of most diseases if detected at an early stage. The science of medicine has progressed so much today. Doctors now have the ability to help us with our health problems and with God's help, we will be able to conquer all of them.

Let us all live healthily and happily, body beautiful or not.

Dulcedehlia S. Almoradie is 67. She worked at The Bank of Nova Scotia, New York and is now retired.

THEY SAID

Third World road

"So we have a brand-new, spanking Terminal 3 but a Third World access road."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo on the airport access road that would cost P155 million and would be shouldered by taxpayers

Flak over Marcos

"I worry that it will bring flak. On the other hand, I appreciate the effort of Congressman (Roque) Ablan, but I am certain it will elicit quite a lot of controversy again."

—Rep. Imee Marcos on a pending House bill declaring Sept. 11 "President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Day"

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A big step toward mercenary politics

THE BILATERAL agreement signed by the Philippine government with the US government last May 13, exempting US military personnel from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) established by the 1998 Rome Statute and from prosecution under its provisions, is a big setback for the cause of human rights and the international rule of law. It is a demonstration of the shameless subservience of the Macapagal administration to US President George W. Bush and of our mercenary foreign policy.

The cause of human rights and international justice as embodied in the Rome Statute and the ICC has been completely sacrificed in the bargain it struck with Washington. In exchange for the agreement, the Philippines expects to receive US military assistance in the amount of $30 million, Gloria's 30 pieces of silver.

The bilateral agreement will perpetuate and legitimize the practice of US military authorities in the past, when the US bases were still here, of sending erring servicemen back to the United States, beyond the reach of Philippine courts.

This bilateral agreement flies in the face of the strong desire of the international community to institutionalize the law, the structures and the procedures that would hold perpetrators of war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and aggression accountable for their actions. They would no longer enjoy the impunity that they would otherwise have without the ICC.

UN Secretary General Koffi Anan described the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998 as "a giant step forward in the march toward universal human rights and rule of law." I can only describe this Macapagal-Bush bilateral agreement as a big step backward in the direction of mercenary politics.

—REP. LORETTA ANN P. ROSALES,
Akbayan Party List,
Batasan Pambansa Complex, QC

Funds for education should be used well

THIS is in reaction to a recent column of Belinda O. Cunanan. In the last paragraph, she mentioned the Mindanao State University where many Muslims have been educated.

I agree with her, because I finished schooling in that university with undergraduate and graduate degrees. I have gotten the greater part of my academic, intellectual and professional development from that university. I was fully immersed in the unique academic life of the MSU System because I stayed there for nearly 15 years.

During my stay, I met, lived and thrived with countless peoples from many tribal groups of Mindanao and Visayas who are now respected leaders of their community, having excelled in their various fields of discipline. And they are all MSU alumni. As far as education is concerned, I salute the excellent output of the MSU System.

But I agree with Cunanan when she expressed doubts about how well public funds intended for education and research are being spent. Officials and leaders must be models in handling funds. They should put the money where it is really intended for. Let us stop diverting funds to other purposes in the guise of educational needs. Let us stop depriving our youth of the blessings of education by doing our duties well. Only by providing genuine and quality education to the Mindanao youth will the mythical Promise of Mindanao be fully realized and peace eventually reign in the land of my birth. *Wassalam!*

—LLOYD LEODIE D. SOLIS, Ph.D.
Saudi Aramco, Dhahran,
Eastern Province,
31311 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Paano makukuha ang inyong refund?

Para sa mga customers na komukonsumo ng 100 kilowatthours at pababa.

Sa Hunyo 6, 2003 sisimulan ang pagbibigay ng MERALCO refund sa higit 1.4 milyong customers na kumukonsumo ng 100 kilowatthours at pababa. Naririto ang ilang dapat tandaan para mapadali ang pagkuha ng inyong refund.

Paano malalaman kung kasama kayo sa may refund
Tingnan ang inyong April 2003 bill. Kung 100 kilowatthours o mas mababa ang inyong konsumo, kasali kayo sa grupong nakatakdang mabigyan ng refund simula sa buwan na ito ng Hunyo 2003.

Tingnang maigi ang inyong June bill
Sa June bill ninyo nakalagay kung magkano ang refund at kung paano ito na-compute. Nakasaad dito kung saang branch maaaring mag-claim ng refund. Nakalagay rin kung kailan kayo maaaring pumunta para kunin ang inyong refund.

Kung walang nakalagay na detalye sa inyong Hunyo 2003 bill, maghintay lang po kayo ng abiso dahil maaring may nakitang pansamantalang problema sa pag-kwenta ng inyong refund.

Siguruhing kumpleto ang dala ninyong dokumento.
Narito ang listahan ng mga kailangan ninyong dalhin para mag-claim ng cash refund:

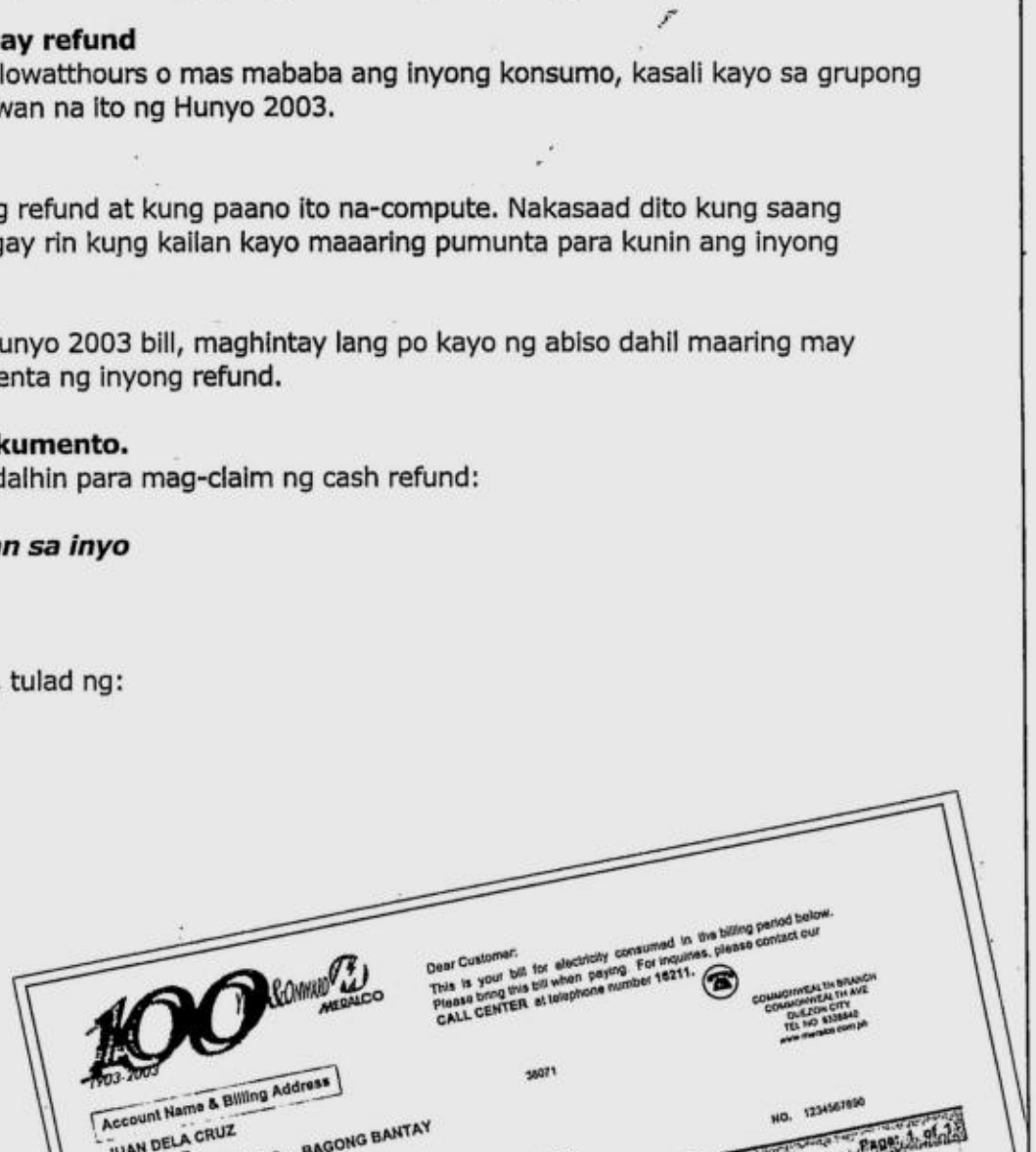
Kung ang service contract ay nakapangalan sa inyo (kayo ang registered customer)

a. **June 2003 bill**
b. **Isang (1) valid ID** na may litrato at pirma, tulad ng:
Driver's License
PRC license
Passport o
New SSS/GSIS/TIN ID
c. Photocopy ng inyong valid ID at ng June 2003 bill

Kung kayo ang kinatawan o authorized representative ng registered customer:

a. **June 2003 bill**
b. **Authorization letter** na pirmado ng registered customer at nakasulat ang inyong pangalan bilang kinatawan
c. **Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer** na may litrato at pirma,
d. **Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo,** (ang kumukuha ng refund)
e. **Photocopy (Xerox) ng mga sumusunod**
1. **Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo**
2. **Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer**
3. **June 2003 bill**

Ang pinakamagaang paraan upang mapakinabangan ang refund
Kung ayaw ninyong maabala o pumila pa sa Branch, mapapakinabangan pa rin ninyo ang refund. Huwag na lang kayong pumunta sa aming branch at gagamitin na lang nating pambayad ang halaga ng inyong refund sa susunod ninyong electric bills.



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LETTERS

Maritime tragedies

I DON'T see any end to these kinds of disasters as long as people responsible for regulating marine commerce don't know what they are doing, or are just looking the other way in exchange for "*lagay*" (bribe). The people at the top should take the blame for these tragedies. They deserve to be sued and pay up big time! Get sloppy, you pay!—**baroque**

* * *

Technology is available to avert these tragedies, such as GPS navigation and just-in-time weather forecasting. But of course, these tools are only as good as the people using them. A quickly accessible flotation device under each passenger seat is also not a bad idea.—**KaFerdi**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

I am surprised that after the last collision at sea some time ago, a thorough shakedown of the whole Coast Guard and a safety inventory of all registered watercraft were not done. If the Coast Guard cannot do it, perhaps the Office of the President can hire an outside consulting firm to make the survey. It is available and very reliable. Every passenger craft should be reasonably safe. As mentioned above there are technologies that may avert most disasters. They still happen, sad to say, but a lot more are preventable. Are lives that cheap now that preventive measures cannot be instituted?—**jofis**

* * *

Maritime safety is everybody's business.

Now that another maritime incident has grabbed the headlines, there'll be another round of finger-pointing, discussions in the Senate, signing of newly enacted laws.

Being a nation composed of thousands of islands, everybody must realize that safety at sea is everybody's business. Ferry owners should have a flotation device for every passenger and the Coast Guard should enforce this by conducting unannounced inspections. Unfortunately, as with everything else, the inspectors are susceptible to "*lagay*" and can thus, be rendered ineffective.

Overloading of passengers is a recurrent offense despite the presence of Coast Guard personnel who are supposed to watch this. Unfortunately, the riding public should be blamed for this. The vessel's crew should know when the maximum capacity is reached and should not let any more passengers on board.

Ferries with a faulty and unreliable manifest of their human and other cargo should be fined heavily, or the ferry's master should spend some time in jail and his license suspended. Bottom line is that sanctions should be steep and effective.

There is much more that can be done to ensure maritime safety. Sadly all these are trotted out when a disaster happens. Weeks from now, government officials will again forget all about them when the disaster becomes old news.—PAFguy

* * *

Pinoys never learn from maritime tragedies. Aging ships, negligence, poor equipment, miscalculations and overloading caused those tragedies. In the MV Doña Paz tragedy, an overloaded ship collided with an oil tanker and sank off the coast of Mindoro island. More than 4,000 souls perished. We should stop blaming each other. The buck stops here.—**Kelly B**

* * *

On a lighter note, President Macapagal-Arroyo congratulated the Philippine Navy for responding swiftly to the crash between MV Nicolas and Super Ferry 12.—**Gerard**

* * *

Can somebody tell me if probes of any sort ever resulted in indictments and prosecution? I am still woefully awaiting the "probe" on Ferdinand Marcos' wealth, Joseph Estrada's escapades and Sen. Panfilo Lacson's apparent criminal conduct. An actress was murdered. Did something come out of that or are officials just grasping at straws? The investigation on this recent ferry collision will be solved when pigs fly!—**baroque**

* * *

Baroque, I shudder at the reality of a collective inability, almost a helplessness, to ensure our people's safety. On this point, there is overwhelming unanimity, a dearth of disagreement, condemnations, or expressions of anger on a problem that involves everybody.

In the Doña Paz tragedy, the worst in recent history, I remember the account of survivors who fought for their lives in shark-infested waters while fuel fires burned on the sea's surface.

I know of someone from Leyte among those who perished. This guy took the Doña Paz on his way to follow up an overseas job application. He never got a chance to work in the Middle East. His body was never recovered. Compensation? He never got any because he was not listed in the manifest.—PT

* * *

As long as we have corrupt men manning the law enforcement agencies in the country, accidents like these are going to happen again and again. How many public transport operators resort to overloading to maximize profits? They are plenty. And the officials who are tasked to monitor them close their eyes to these violations in exchange of bribes.

Unless transport operators realize that they are entrusted with the lives of their passengers, and while the Coast Guard, Marina or even the Land Transportation Office continue to condone the blatant disregard of passenger safety measures, tragedies like the MV San Nicolas are sure to happen again.—**ChristianArab**

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Palestinians, Israelis vow to seek peace

Summit with Bush raises peace hopes

AQABA, Jordan—US President George W. Bush won an Israeli pledge to start uprooting some settlement outposts in the West Bank and a Palestinian call to end armed struggle for a state at a landmark summit on Wednesday.

The promises from Israeli leader Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas set in motion the US-backed "road map" for peace and Palestinian statehood, cementing Bush's new role as chief mediator in the conflict.

"Great hope and change is coming to the Middle East," Bush said before the two prime ministers shook hands for the first time in public at the three-way summit in the Jordanian Red Sea port city of Aqaba.

Bush said after 75 minutes of talks with Abbas and Sharon that all sides had made important commitments. Like a cowboy, he would "ride herd" to try to ensure their fulfillment, he said.

But with cool reactions from Jewish settlers and Palestinian militants, Bush remained cautious. "There are killers lurking in the neighborhood," he said of those pledged to destroy Israel.

In closing speeches at a palace overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba, Sharon and Abbas said they both envisioned a time when Israeli and Palestinian states would live side by side in peace.

But questions remained over whether Abbas would be able to make good on his vows to persuade militants to stop attacking Israelis in the 32-month-old Palestinian uprising for statehood.

"We will never be ready to lay down arms until the liberation of the last centimeter of the land of Palestine," Hamas official Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi said. Islamic Jihad, another group sworn to Israel's destruction, followed suit.

The Palestinians have questioned Sharon's commitment to a two-state solution and to taking the politically risky move of dismantling Jewish settlements.

Several thousand people gathered in Jerusalem on Wednesday evening to oppose giving up settlements. "Palestinian state—disaster for the Israeli state," one banner declared.

"The Aqaba summit was a humiliating ceremony in which the Israeli government celebrated its surrender to Palestinian terror," said the YESHA Council which represents the settlers.

Security has been beefed up around Sharon, officials said.

The road map charts the creation of a Palestinian state in 2005 after the two sides complete reciprocal confidence-building steps that include a freeze on settlement expansion.

In his statement as Bush, Abbas and host King Abdullah of Jordan stood beside him, Sharon said Israel "will begin immediately to evacuate unauthorized outposts."

Sharon was referring to mainly sparsely populated hilltop settlements established without Israeli government permission in the West Bank after March 2001, when Sharon came to power, and which the road map mandates must be scrapped. He did not say how many outposts—there are an estimated 60—would be uprooted.

Sharon also said Israel understood "the importance of territorial contiguity in the West Bank for a viable Palestinian state," a remark suggesting some long-established settlements might be evacuated as part of a permanent peace accord.

The international community views as illegal all the settlements Israel planted on land it seized in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel disputes this.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath described as unprecedented Sharon's "very clear commitment and recognition of an independent Palestinian state and very clear talk of ending settlement activity."

In comments likely to please Sharon and Bush, Abbas pledged in his statement to exert "full efforts" to end "the militarization" of the uprising that began in September 2000.

"The armed Intifada must end and we must resort to peaceful means to achieve our goals," Abbas said, in effect calling for the culmination of a decades-old armed struggle for statehood. *Reuters*

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White House defends intelligence on Iraq arms

WASHINGTON—The US administration sought Wednesday to quash attacks on the credibility of its Iraq weapons intelligence even though no immediate political threat is seen to President George W. Bush.

The US and British leaders have come under mounting pressure over the handling of evidence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) used to justify the Iraq war.

While British Prime Minister Tony Blair has suffered badly, Bush has remained out of the firing line.

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith put the administration's case against reports that intelligence on Iraq had been exaggerated which he said was "beginning to achieve the status of urban legends."

Feith and other senior officials strongly denied that a special Defense Department unit only used reports from defectors associated with an Iraqi opposition group to make the US case that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and links to al-Qaida posed an imminent threat.

"There is no basis for that, none whatsoever," said William Luti, deputy undersecretary of defense for special plans and Near East and South Asian Affairs.

Faced with mounting questions over whether intelligence was politicized to justify a war with Iraq, Feith attacked the accuracy of press accounts on the role of a Pentagon unit set up to review US intelligence on terrorism.

He said the basic intelligence assessments of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons programs had barely changed since the previous administration under President Bill Clinton.

Analyst experts have become increasingly critical of the way in which intelligence evidence was used before Bush declared war on Saddam Hussein.

James Lindsay, a Brookings Institution specialist and former adviser to the Clinton White House, said "the administration got it wrong" over the weapons information.

"It's hard to believe the Iraqis could have had the amounts of chemical weapons the administration was talking about" before the war, declared Lindsay.

But he added: "It doesn't matter. The US people will say Saddam Hussein was a son of bitch. Most Americans have the very firm belief George Bush did not lie."

Polls indicate most Americans do not believe they were deliberately misled by the administration even if most believe the information they were given was not right.

The Bush administration made what it considered a strong case to the US public and the United Nations for military action against Iraq to counter the threat of Saddam's weapons programs and his links with terrorism.

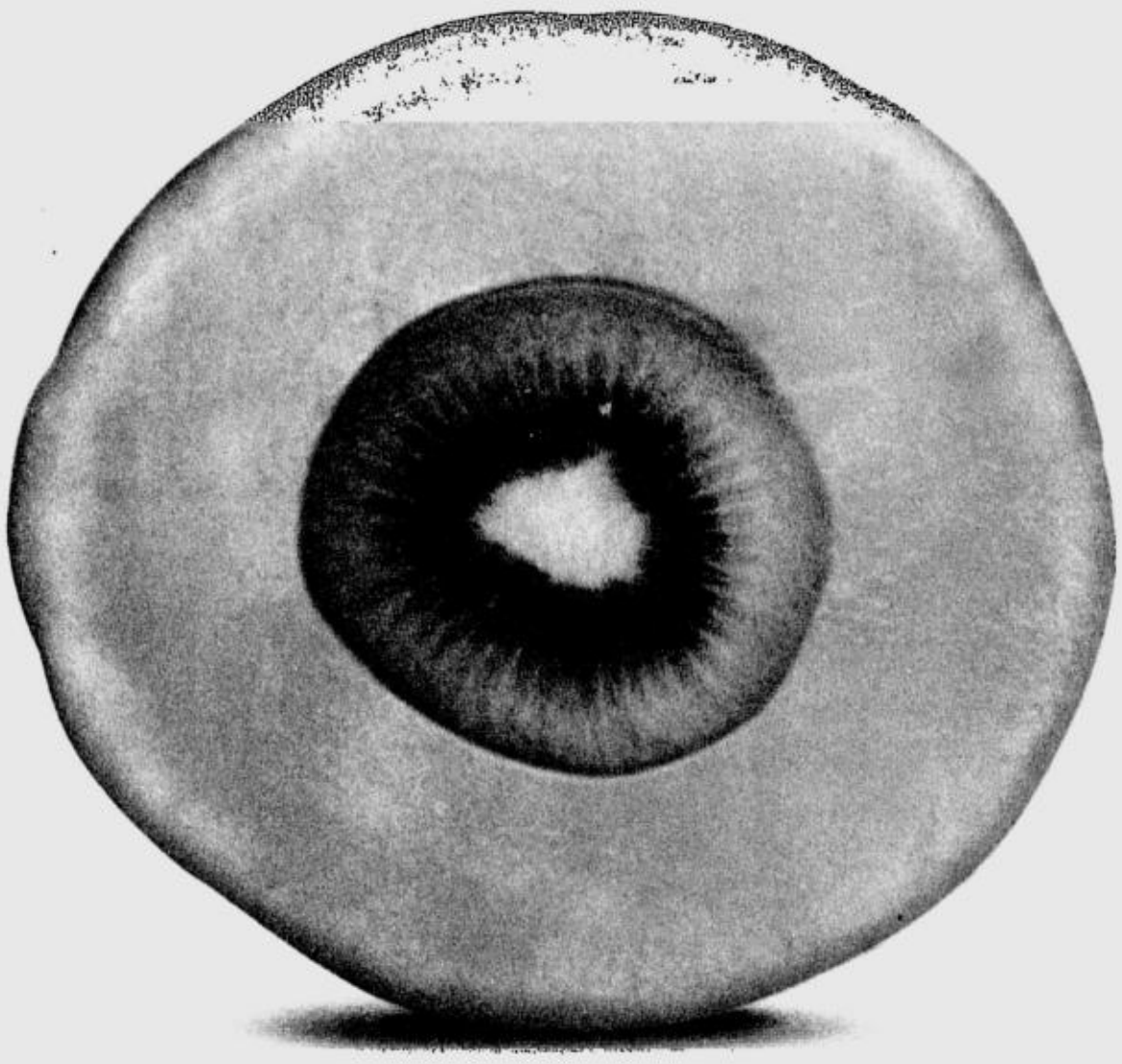
Charles Pena, a specialist on defense policy at the CATO Institute in Washington, said though no weapons of mass destruction nor links with al-Qaida had been found, "Now it's not discussed.

"Polls show that Americans don't really care whether we find WMD or not.

"For America this war was cathartic. It was about regaining a sense of pride and confidence after Sept. 11. Even after Afghanistan there was still an existential need to kick some butt and Saddam Hussein was an easy target," said Pena.

Criticism is also muted in Congress from Bush's Republicans and the opposition Democrats.

The Senate Intelligence and Armed Services committees are to hold joint hearings into whether an intelligence breakdown occurred. But there are few accusations against the president. *AFP*



UN ambassador to insist on seeing Suu Kyi

KUALA LUMPUR—UN special envoy Razali Ismail said he would insist on seeing detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi when he visits Burma on Friday and called on Asian powers and Washington to put pressure on the ruling junta.

Razali, in an interview with Reuters, seemed steeled for a showdown with Burma's generals and asked for China, India, Japan and the United States to throw their weight behind him.

"I am going and I am going to state my insistence that I will see Aung San Suu Kyi. If they are not cooperative, they will see what I can do," he said.

Diplomats and Burma dissidents fear Suu Kyi, in custody now for six days, may have been injured in a clash between supporters and a pro-government group last week.

In Rangoon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was trying to persuade the government to relent and let its officials meet Suu Kyi and other people detained.

"We informed the government of our desire to visit them. We are still following up on this," an ICRC official said.

Razali has been envoy for more than three years but can count only minor victories in his mission to kickstart national reconciliation that could eventually bring democracy to a country whose government is shunned by all but its closest neighbors.

"I cannot do the job on my own, I have to have support. Regional players must come into action," said Razali.

"I think the Americans have a big role to play," he added.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate and pro-democracy icon, has been held at undisclosed locations since her arrest despite international agencies' efforts to see her and mounting calls for her release. *Reuters*

SARS on the wane in Asia

HONG KONG—Asia appeared to be moving ever closer to victory over SARS Wednesday but experts warned that no country in the world could drop its guard against the disease.

China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, all badly-hit by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome which has globally claimed almost 800 lives, recorded sustained lows in deaths and infections, while Canada began easing quarantine measures.

Declaring its second day with no new SARS cases this week, China trumpeted success in meeting the disease head-on, insisting frequently queried figures were genuine and its efforts were second to none.

"Our control measures are good, there's no question about it," He Xiong, deputy director of Beijing's disease control and prevention center said.

"Our measures are stricter than (those of) any other city in China or in the world."

The total number of people known to be infected in China remains at 5,329 with 334 fatalities, the health ministry said Wednesday.

However, experts at an international health conference warned that despite the apparent decline in cases, not enough was known about the disease to allow health authorities to become complacent.

"I think, if every country has no SARS, that's a different issue, but as long as there's a country with SARS, we have to maintain vigilance—very high vigilance," said Chew Suok-Kai, deputy director of medical services for the epidemiology and disease control division of Singapore's ministry of health.

Chew said there could be a resurgence of the SARS in the winter, as respiratory infections are more common in cold weather, noting that the disease first broke out in November in southern China's Guangdong province.

Experts at the meeting urged further research into many unanswered questions about SARS which has left some 8,000 people infected in more than 30 countries and territories in a seven-month period.

Besides the lack of a vaccine or cure, the world still needs to know how long recovered patients retain the virus and whether they can spread it to others.

"I think we have to very carefully follow up on these patients in the long term," said Stephen Ostroff, deputy director of the US National Center for Infectious Diseases.

And while researchers have found the SARS virus—the coronavirus—in wild animals, more studies need to be done on whether those animals are the "original reservoir" and whether animals transmitted the virus to humans or vice versa, experts said. *AFP*

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THIS cover released on June 4 of US Sen. Hillary Clinton's memoir "Living History" published by Simon & Schuster is due next Monday. Simon & Schuster paid $8 million for Clinton's inside look at eight tumultuous White House years. REUTERS

Hillary bares pain of Monica affair in book

WASHINGTON—Hillary Rodham Clinton says her husband's relationship with Monica Lewinsky caused so much pain that, at one point, Buddy the dog was the only member of the family willing to keep President Bill Clinton company.

The former first lady declares in her new memoirs that, "As a wife, I wanted to wring Bill's neck," but she finally resolved that she loved him, wanted to keep the marriage intact and supported what he was doing as president.

Mrs. Clinton vividly describes her pain over the betrayal in "Living History," covering her eight years in the White House. A copy of the book, which goes on sale Monday, was obtained by The Associated Press.

She recounts two bedside conversations seven months apart. In the first, the morning of Jan. 21, 1998, the president sat on the edge of the bed and told her the Lewinsky story was coming out and it wasn't true.

In the second, Aug. 15, 1998, the weekend before he testified about his relationship with the intern to a grand jury, the president woke her, paced the floor and said there was truth to the allegations after all.

"Why he felt he had to deceive me and others is his own story, and he needs to tell it in his own way," she writes.

Asked Wednesday about her book's account of the Lewinsky episode, the senator from New York said only: "I hope people will read the book. This book is about many things."

Speaking outside her Senate office, she said of the keen interest in her story: "I worked very hard on it—to talk about my growing up, my values, my beliefs. And I think all of these questions people will be able to answer for themselves within the context of the entire book."

She says in the memoirs that the most difficult decisions she has made in her life were to stay married to her husband and to run for the Senate.

Her 562-page book has been highly anticipated. Simon & Schuster, expecting large sales, ordered an extraordinary first printing of 1 million copies. The first lady-turned-senator was paid a $2.85 million advance toward the $8 million book deal. Foreign rights already have been sold in 16 countries. The book's list price is $28.

In it, she acknowledges tears and turmoil, balancing her personal struggles to deal with a wayward husband with her political obligations as first lady and Senate candidate.

She says she accepted her husband's story at first—that he had befriended the White House intern when she asked for job-hunting help, had talked to her a few times—and that the relationship had been horribly misconstrued. *AP*

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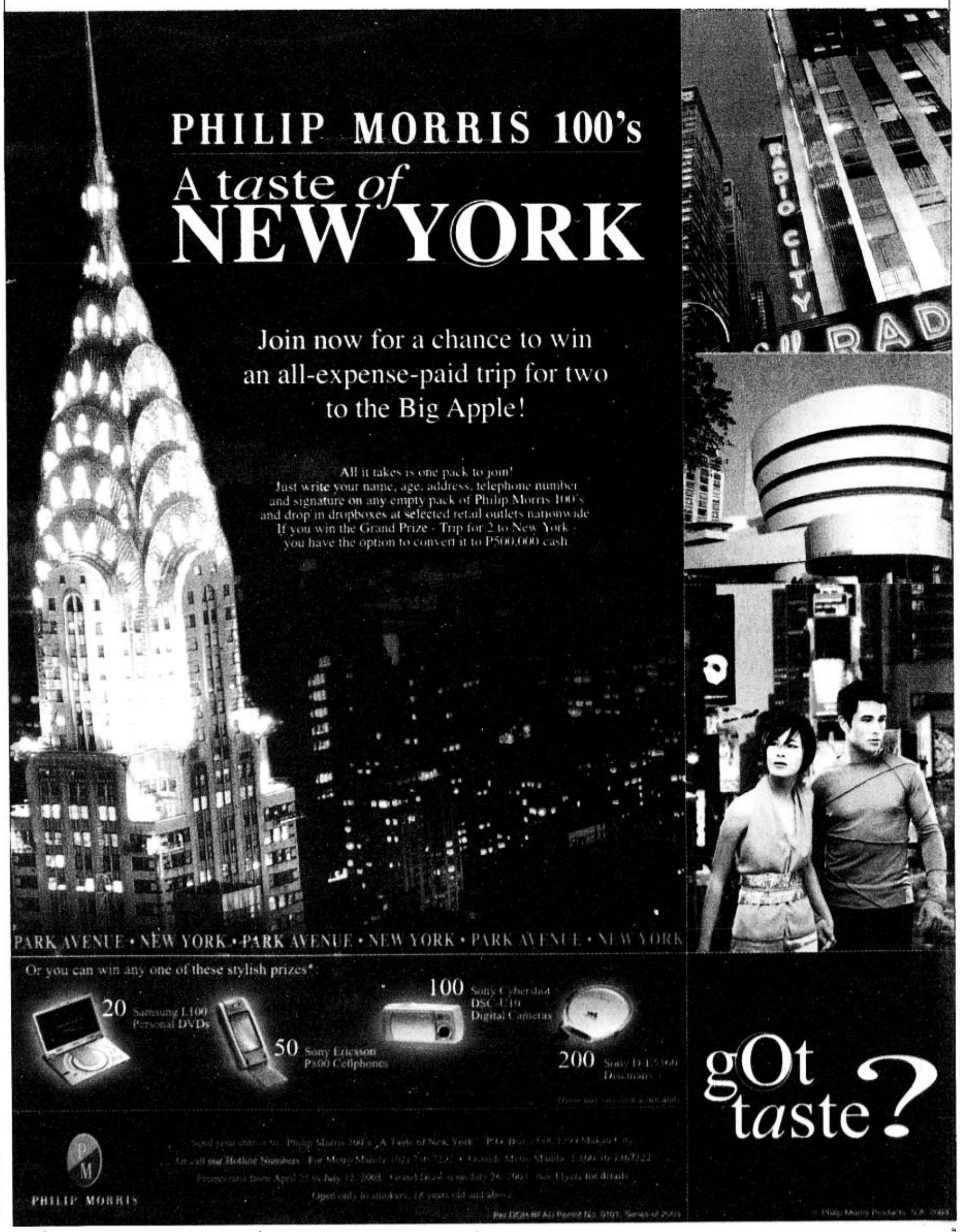

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40 cops in each Calabarzon province suspected drug users

LUCENA CITY—An average of 40 policemen in every province in the Calabarzon Region have been suspected of using illegal drugs, according to the police regional director.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, head of Police Regional Office 4, told newsmen during his first command visit at the Quezon police headquarters here yesterday that cops suspected as drug users were reported to his office primarily by concerned citizens and fellow policemen.

The PRO4 has jurisdiction over Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon) provinces.

Caringal revealed that in Quezon, more than 50 cases of policemen suspected of using banned drugs have been reported.

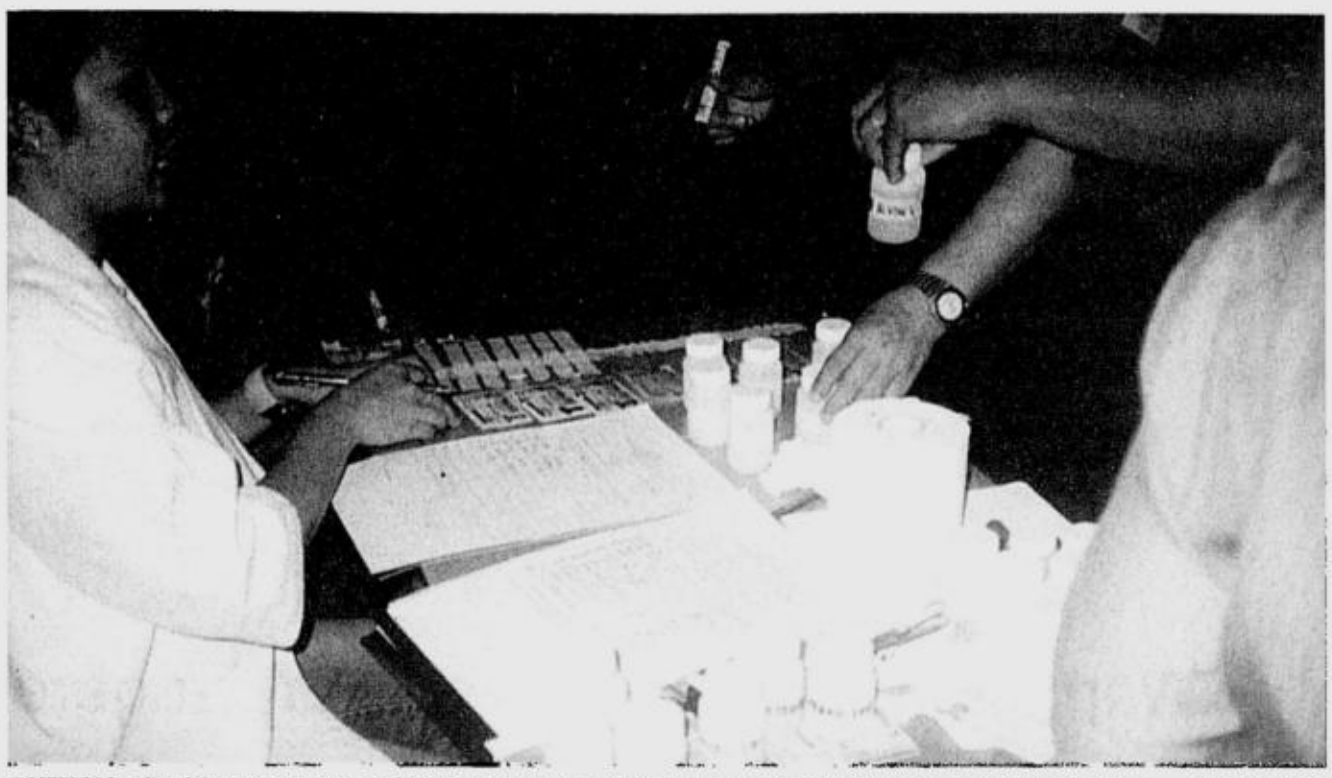
"But I want to stress here that those reported cops were just mere suspects. Their alleged use of prohibited drugs or possible involvement with drug syndicates will still be subject to further laboratory examination and serious investigation," Caringal said.

He warned that sanctions would also be meted out to the immediate superiors of confirmed illegal drug users.

"These superiors are either tolerant of their men's shenanigans or they could also be in collusion with drug syndicates," he added.

At least 57 policemen wait for their turn to submit their urine specimens to the Quezon police laboratory.

Chief Insp. Rufina Baldovino, head of the police laboratory, said the "laboratory screening" usually takes only one day to produce the result.



QUEZON police laboratory personnel have a busy day accepting urine specimens for the drug test of policemen. DELFIN MALLARI JR.

"But if any individual turns out positive during the screening, he will still be given another round of laboratory examinations to determine whether he is really an illegal drug user. That will take at least a week," she told the INQUIRER.

Caringal explained that to save on the cost of weeding out the ranks of policemen from the threat of illegal drugs, "instead of conducting individual drug tests, what we're doing is to immediately ask those reported users to submit themselves for laboratory examination."

"In that manner, we could fast (track) the purging of scalawags among our ranks," Caringal said.

A drug test costs about P300 per person.

Caringal said he reminded the concerned policemen that they have the right to question the legitimacy of his order before the court, "and I will not contest it."

"But I also told them pointblank that I have the right to dismiss them from the service as their superior," he added.

Law enforcers are among those mandated to take drug tests, as specified in the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act passed last year.

On Wednesday, National Police deputy chief for administration Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay said that policemen found to be positive to banned drugs will be sent to rehabilitation centers and dismissed from service. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Judge scores policemen for planting evidence

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Irked over what he calls an "emerging culture of planting evidence on suspected (illegal) drug dealers," a regional trial court judge here took the chance in a recent decision to castigate unscrupulous law enforcers.

Judge Antonio Reyes, who handles the special court for illegal drug cases here, recently acquitted a miner who was arrested for allegedly selling 2.64 grams of shabu to Baguio policemen in a buy-bust operation on Jan. 17, 2001.

Reyes called the buy-bust operation on Tracey Lac-amen "dubious" because of the glaring inconsistencies in the testimonies of the arresting lawmen.

"The evidence could have been planted," Reyes told the INQUIRER. "And this has cast a reasonable doubt on the guilt of the accused."

But in his 13-page decision, Reyes took the occasion to assail the emerging pattern among lawmen to plant evidence on suspects "for money or some evil motive."

"In the case of Lac-amen, it is vengeance," he said.

During trial, the policemen could not even agree as to how many vehicles were used and how many policemen joined the operation, he said.

Vengeance

Reyes also found that the money used for the buy-bust was already authenticated on Dec. 30, 2000 but was used only on Jan. 17, 2001.

In believing that vengeance could have motivated the arrest, Reyes took notice of the testimony of Lac-amen that one of the police officers, PO2 Joseph Filog, had a grudge on him for supposedly fooling Filog's aunt.

Reyes also said Lac-amen testified that another policeman had a score to settle with him because Lac-amen's brother earlier sued the policeman for manhandling him in an earlier case.

"There is a strong evidence which gravitates toward a complete and unmistakable frame-up," Reyes said.

But Filog disagreed with Reyes. "Lac-amen's arrest was a legitimate operation," he told the INQUIRER. "We did not plant any evidence on him. Our operation was legal."

Filog said he respects the court's decision.

"But it is too much to accuse us planting evidence because we cannot in conscience do that," he said.

Filog said Reyes could have misappreciated the facts of the case. "We didn't have enough sleep because of that operation. It's not good if they say we planted the evidence. That will put us to shame," Filog said.

"We condemn (illegal) drugs as menace to society. But the law will not tolerate lawmen who, in the guise of doing their duty, are bent on planting evidence to incriminate the accused," Reyes said.

In his decision, Reyes said his ruling on Lac-amen's case is his way of warning lawmen not to tamper with the constitutional rights of the accused. "This court will look with scrutinizing and microscopic eyes (at) every detail and every word attendant to every arrest and every charge against an accused," he said.

Reyes also said lawmen have so far succeeded in arresting only small drug illegal dealers but not drug lords.

Biazon wants Senate inquiry on GMOs

ILAGAN, Isabela—Prompted by complaints and opposition from nongovernment groups to the commercialization of genetically modified (GM) products, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would seek a legislative inquiry into the reported ill effects of GMcrops.

On a recent visit here, Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, admitted that he has been hearing complaints and opposition by NGOs against genetically modified organisms (GMOs), especially the commercialization of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)-corn.

"This has prompted me to look deeper into this GMO issue. How it will affect the people's health, the environment, the farmlands," he said.

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance in Isabela (Agmais) spokesperson and social action center director of the Diocese of Ilagan, said their campaign against Bt-corn has succeeded in creating awareness among Filipinos on the supposed ill effects of the GM crop.

"Thanks to the media, people all over the country are now aware of the effects of Bt-corn. It is up to them to decide if they will plant and eat such GM corn," Uanan said.

He said they would continue their protests and ask farmers to join them

Earlier, the American-owned agricultural firm Monsanto-Philippines, reported harvesting Bt-corn in over 120 hectares in Isabela, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Camarines Sur and Misamis Oriental.

Emmanuel Borlongan, Monsanto-Philippines government and public affairs lead director, said the "successful Bt-corn harvests" would encourage farmers to shift from ordinary and low-yielding hybrid varieties to the GM crop in the next planting season.

Borlongan reiterated that the Bt-corn has been proven safe by the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines and was approved for commercialization by the DA after it passed tests conducted by agricultural scientists. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 NPA rebels slain in clash

DAVAO CITY—At least four communist guerrillas were slain during a clash with government troops in Lupon, Davao Oriental on Wednesday evening.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, said the encounter broke out when patrolling soldiers from the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion chanced upon a group of New People's Army (NPA) rebels in sitio Kauswagan in Barangay San Isidro around 10 p.m.

Adriatico said the gun battle lasted about 30 minutes but no one was harmed on the government's side.

Aside from the dead rebels, soldiers also recovered three high-powered firearms from the encounter site.

Adriatico said the slain rebels belonged to the NPA's Front Committee 18, operating in the province.

The same front was also believed to be responsible for the series of attacks in Davao Oriental including the ambush on the military there sometime last year that resulted in the death of at least 18 soldiers.

In Cotabato City, after four days of sleuthing, police on Thursday said the three people killed during the June 1 explosion in Barangay Bagua 3 there were suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police director, said Bobby Kadman, Teting Guiaman and Mama Abdul had been engaged in various crimes including robbery.

Macacua said the victims, who belong to a group led by Manda Guiaman, alias Commander Boy Timaco, were assembling the bomb fitted with an 81-mm mortar shell and a rocket-propelled grenade when it went off.

"It took the police four days to find out that there were indeed casualties in that blast due to the area's wide swampy terrain," Macacua said.

Macacua said the police were still clueless as to where the suspects were planning to plant the explosive.

The MILF was being blamed for the series of explosions in Mindanao, including the Davao blasts that killed at least 48 people and the Koronadal City explosion that killed at least 10.

Rebel officials, saying the MILF is a legitimate revolutionary group and is not engaged in terrorism, vehemently denied the allegation. *Anthony S. Allada and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DA hit for pulling out program for rice importation

MEMBERS of farmers' cooperatives nationwide criticized Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo for his plan to pull out President Macapagal-Arroyo's program on rice importation from farmer-beneficiaries.

Silvestre Bonto, president of the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations, questioned why Lorenzo wanted to withdraw the rice importation program from legitimate farmers' cooperatives and bring it back to the National Food Authority.

He said in a news release that many farmers were taken aback by Lorenzo's official stand that the "Farmers as Importers" program (FIP) of the President was a fiasco.

Farmers said Lorenzo not only defied the President, but also insulted her endlessly.

"The FIP is not a failure. If in any case it is, then it is the fault of the Department of Agriculture," Bonto said.

He, however, lauded National Food Authority Administrator Arthur Yap for his efforts to help poor farmers avail themselves of the rice importation program by lowering the ceiling of the required quota for each farmers' cooperative.

"In fact, Yap tried his best to cooperate with us," he said.

Bonto claimed 28 farmers' cooperatives waiting for the approval of their letters of credit were required to undergo tedious processing of documents and denial of payment in manager's checks.

Mayor probes porn video scandal in Dumaguete

By Alex Pal and Romy Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A "thumbs-up" sign may mean many things to many people.

But for those who had watched a particular pornographic video that took this city by storm, the thumbs-up sign this unknown guy flashed at the cameraman gave him away as someone who knew he was being filmed while having sex with his girlfriend, one of three girls prominently shown on screen.

And the one-hour long video entitled "Dumaguete Scandal" is causing outrage among Dumagueteños as it features the sexual trysts of three prominent Dumagueteñas and the same two young men.

Mayor Augustin Perdices formed an investigating panel to determine the identities of the persons behind the filming and circulation of the videotapes.

The committee is composed of the Philippine National Police, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the National Bureau of Investigation and the City Legal Office.

"Leave no stone unturned. Look into who were involved in this very revolting act. The culprit should be made to face the crime he committed," Perdices told the committee.

He said he did not finish viewing the film because it made him mad.

"From a City of Gentle People, we could become a city of scandalous events," he added.

Vice Gov. Jose Baldado also sought the investigation on the scandal so appropriate action could be taken against the people behind it.

"The perpetrators should be prosecuted and be meted the maximum penalty under our laws," he said.

Baldado said he pitied the young women victims, two of whom were a former band majorette and a local beauty queen.

One of the women attempted to kill herself by slashing her pulse with a knife, apparently because of extreme degradation brought about by the scandal, especially that she is now married. She was still single when the film was taken around 1999.

Sources said the other woman was about to be married early this year, but her boyfriend backed out as soon as the scandal surfaced. She has resigned from her job and left Dumaguete City. The third woman also left the city.

The three were in their middle or late 20s when the film was taken.

The two men shown in the videos, also in their 20s, are reportedly in hiding because of fear that the relatives of the women might get back at them. Both reportedly worked together in a company here.

There are indications that the two men were aware of the filming. For example, in one lovemaking session, the male was shown giving a thumbs-up sign. It was also apparent that the one taking the film was an amateur because of the poor quality of the shots.

Reports indicated that the trysts took place in a house with the hidden camera mounted above the room.

Copies of the videos now on compact discs are being sold at P40 to P100 per copy. Many of the CD buyers, using their own computers, have reproduced the film, passing the copies on to their friends or relatives.

Sources said copies of the videos were sold first in Mindanao. The film began to be disseminated here last April.

NBI Special Agent Miguel Dungog said they are still digging through their law books on what crime was committed.

Councilor Rommel Erames said the closest crime that could apply to the ones behind the filming of this video would be Article 201 of the Revised Penal Code, which regulates obscene publications and the selling and giving away of films which are offensive to morals.

"However, the penalty is very light. We will try to ask Congress to make a law punishing this act because this is worse than rape and should be punishable by death," he said.

Another problem is the law itself.

Having been made over 50 years ago, the Revised Penal Code does not include video compact disks (VCDs) among the media where placing obscene materials could be punishable.

But Perdices said it was important to teach the culprits a lesson.

"If they go scot-free, it will tempt others to go into this business. We have to do this to deter other people from doing the same thing."

"The best thing to do now is to employ damage control by confiscating the VCDs in the market," said Supt. Constantino Barot, city police chief.

Perdices also warned stores selling copies of the VCD that they could be penalized with the cancellation of their mayor's permit.

Provincial Board Member Arturo Umbac also wanted to minimize the damage by suggesting a news blackout, although he said "this is asking for the impossible."

But he likened those who will watch this video to "vultures feeding on the carcass of this scandal."

A mural by Carlos "Botong" Francisco at the administration building of United Laboratories

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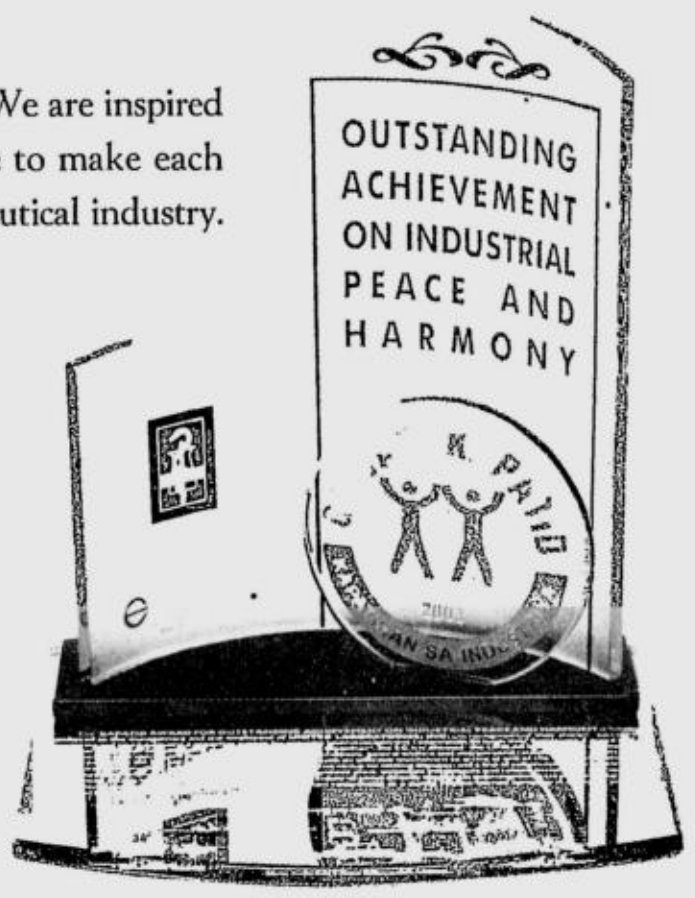

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Continuous rains threaten 3 dikes in Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Rains brought about by successive tropical storms "Chedeng" and "Dodong" damaged several critical sections of three lahar-confining dikes in Pampanga and Zambales last week, an official of the Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office (MPR-PMO) said.

Pedro Tercino, chief engineer of the MPR-PMO, said potholes formed along a 9-km stretch on the eastern side and another kilometer on the western side of the FVR Megadike in Pampanga.

The potholes caused rainwater to sink deeper into the core, thus undermining the foundation of the dike that was built only on compacted sand, the same material that Mt. Pinatubo spewed during its strong eruptions in June 1991.

Tercino said the base course would have to be restored so that the dike's core would not be saturated.

The repair costs P7.4 million, an amount that is still not available from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the mother unit of the MPR-PMO.

Gullies have also developed on the dike's eastern section. The restoration of this portion would require about P200,000.

Floodwaters scoured the Gumain-Porac Dike that protects Lubao and Floridablanca towns, and damaged the slope protection along Barangay San Pedro.

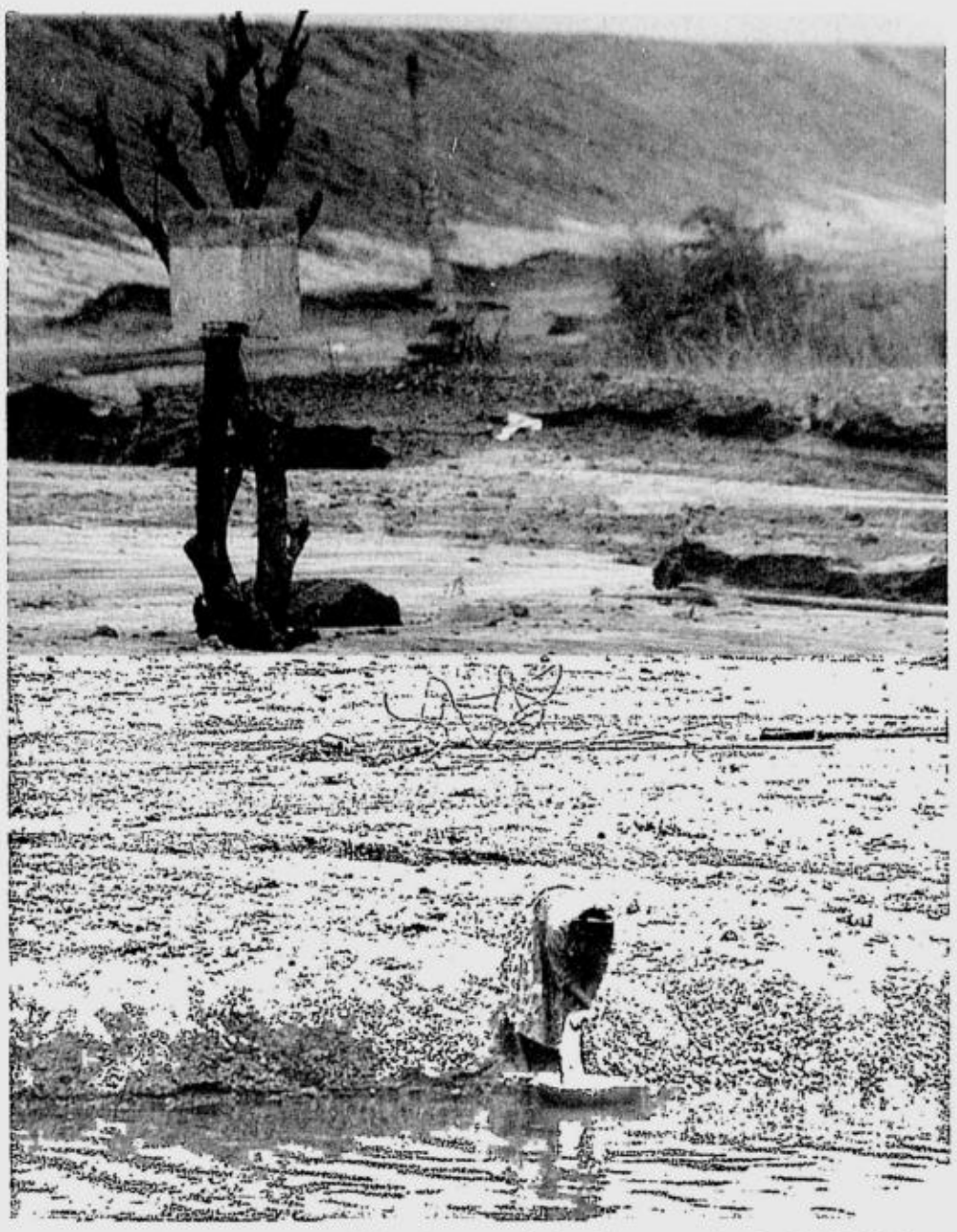
"(This is) alarming since (the) dike (would be) in danger of breaching if no immediate measures were done," Tercino said. At least P15.93 million is needed for the repair of these sections.

In Zambales, some 100 meters downstream of the Maculcul Dike on the side of San Narciso town were "about to breach."

"Breaching of the dike will occur should heavy rains continue," Tercino said.

Lahar that heavy rains had washed toward the Sto. Tomas River left no more freeboard (the space under the bridge that allows water to flow underneath) at the Maculcul Bridge. The bridge connects San Narciso and San Felipe towns.

Government-owned dredgers have been placed on standby to restore the freeboard and prevent an overflow. The repair of the dike costs around P1 million. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



THIS WOMAN returns to a normal life as the stream in her village comes back to life. Behind her is a portion of the lahar-filled ground which has been converted into a basketball court. THE VOICE

ROUNDUP

4 men slain

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Four men were shot and killed while two others were hurt after they were attacked in a village party in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, on Friday, belated reports reaching the Cordillera police said. Supt. Rimas Calixto, chief of the regional police's intelligence and investigation division, said the suspects barged into the party and started shooting the victims. Killed were Saliban Sannadan, Dungay Sannadan, Arnold Pascua and Mariano Codiyon. Seriously hurt were Francisco and Joel Sannadan. Calixto said investigators have yet to determine if the victims were members of the Pinukpuk tribe. He said such violence usually sparks intertribal conflict, especially if perpetrators belong to another tribe.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 die in collision

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—A jeepney driver and his two passengers were killed while two others were hurt on Sunday when their jeepney collided with a bus along the Cagayan Valley Road in Barangay Matimbubong. Reports identified the fatalities as Ricardo Miranda and his passengers Randy Sayco and Marvin de la Cruz. The injured passengers, Richard Miranda and Ernesto de la Cruz, were taken to the Bulacan Provincial Hospital in Malolos City. Police said the southbound jeepney overtook an Isuzu tractor, but its driver failed to notice the approaching Nelbusco bus.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ex-rebs get amnesty

ROXAS CITY—Sixty-two rebel returnees from Western Visayas got certificates of amnesty from National Amnesty Commission head Alvin Dans in ceremonies held at the Governor's Hall of the Capiz Provincial Capitol on May 29. The rebel returnees from Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, Iloilo and Capiz got their amnesty papers in recognition of their desire to support the government. One of them, Generoso Castor, 41, a former platoon commander of the New People's Army operating in central Panay Island, said he decided to return to the fold of the law because the life of a rebel was very difficult.

Gerry T. Pagharion. PDI Visayas Bureau

Stray bullet kills boy

BACOLOD CITY—A stray bullet killed a 1-year-old boy and severely injured his mother near their residence in Purok Balabag, Barangay Granada, Bacolod City about 2 p.m. Saturday. Police said Maria Theresa Panes Jagunap, 32, was outside her house coddling her son Edmar while packing eggplants harvested from their farm when a bullet coming out of nowhere hit her face and went through the head of her son. She was brought to the Doctors Hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound while her son was declared dead on arrival at the same hospital.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Help for prosecution

ILOILO CITY—Witnesses in the abduction and killing of human rights activist Eden Marcellana and farmer leader Eddie Gumanoy in Oriental Mindoro will help government prosecutors in making police artist's sketches of the suspects, said Edre Olalia, executive director of the Manila-based Public Interest Law Center. Marcellana and Gumanoy were found dead on April 22 in Bansud town a day after armed men wearing bonnets seized them in Naujan town. The two were part of a human rights team investigating the abduction allegedly perpetrated by the military in Gloria town. Human rights advocates blamed Col. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade in Oriental Mindoro, for the killings. Palparan has denied the allegations.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

46 farmers get land

BACOLOD CITY—Forty-six agrarian reform beneficiaries have been installed on the property formerly owned by the family of Mario Villanueva in Hacienda Conchita, Barangay Sag-ang, La Castellana amid tight security provided by the police. Only the presence of policemen prevented violence from erupting between the farmer-beneficiaries and Villanueva's farm workers. The beneficiaries will occupy 82 hectares of the 132-ha Hacienda Conchita that were placed under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) of the government.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Recall polls called off

ILOILO CITY—The Commission on Elections called off the holding of recall elections involving Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar Perez and board members Faith Francisco and Eric Otayde due to time and budgetary constraints. Victor Gaborne, Comelec director in Western Visayas, said no fund was made available for the holding of the recall elections that would cost P7 million. Also, there was no longer time to hold the pre-election requirements and activities like the filing of candidacy, campaign period and updating of the list of voters. Under Section 74 of the Local Government Code, no recall election could take place within a year immediately preceding a regular local election or not later than May 8.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Election violations

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Elections in the province has recommended the filing of charges against two chairpersons of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) in Mabinay, Negros Oriental for violating the Omnibus Election Code. Provincial elections supervisor Rogelio Benjamin said Carmelita Jumuad and Shirly Aguilar, BEI chairpersons of Precincts 90-A and 91-A-1 of Barangay Mayaposi, Mabinay, violated the "integrity of the ballots and its secrecy" when they required voters in their precincts to affix their signatures (to) their ballots during the barangay elections on July 15, 2002. Jumuad admitted she required some voters to sign at the back of their ballots but stopped after "we entertained doubts about our procedure " Aguilar said she, too, told voters to sign at the back of ballots made "as a result of the misinterpretation of the instruction "

Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Media groups score threats

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Press organizations in Pampanga on Monday condemned the death threat against a correspondent of a local daily after he wrote a story on a suspected rapist belonging to a rich family in Mabalacat town.

The threat on Rhay Navales, Sun.Star Pampanga correspondent, came in the form of a letter sent through electronic mail on Sunday.

The name of the sender, "Death Squad," and the address, "kamatayan-20042004@yahoo-.com" are, "by themselves, already malicious," according to Diosdado Pangilinan, president of the Pampanga Press Club.

Written in Kapampangan, the sender warned that Navales had been sentenced to die (*"sentensyadu na ka"*) and that his death would soon make the headlines.

The club has asked Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, to help secure Navales and to conduct a "serious investigation." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Lay worker missing in Mindoro

CALAMBA CITY—After accusing the military of being responsible for the twin killings of prominent rights activists in Mindoro, militant groups are also blaming the military for the disappearance of an activist lay worker in Mindoro.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Southern Tagalog on Wednesday said the disappearance of Lino Bernardino, deputy secretary general of the Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid (Kasama) sa Timog Katagalugan, and a lay worker of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, could be the handy work of the dreaded military troops in the island province.

"We have a strong feeling that the military is again involved in this case. For years now, the military in Mindoro, has figured in countless cases of abduction, forced disappearances and summary executions," said spokesperson of Bayan-ST Edwin Alog.

Lito Mercado, of the Justice for Ka Eden, Justice for Ka Eddie Movement and brother of the late human rights leader Eden Marcellana, said he was very disappointed about the incident.

"The case of my sister and Ka Eddie (Gumanoy) against the military is still (being investigated), and yet another activist is missing. The fascist treatment of the military on militant and progressive organizations in Southern Tagalog is worsening and continuing," Mercado said.

Marcellana, secretary general of the Alyansa sa Pagusulong ng Karapatang Pantao in Southern Tagalog, and Gumanoy, chair of the Kasama sa Timog Katagalugan, were found murdered in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro on April 21.

Bernardino informed his family on May 24 that he was going to Occidental Mindoro to perform his task as a lay missionary in that province, Mercado said.

He left Manila on the same day but his family and friends have yet to know his whereabouts.

A source also informed the family that Bernardino did not reach his destination in Occidental Mindoro.

But a spokesperson from the Southern Luzon Command in Lucena City brushed aside the accusation and said it was just part of the "propaganda agenda of communist supporters."

He urged the national government to look into the matter.

Arrest hailed

But even as they decried the new case of alleged disappearance, militant groups welcomed the arrest of an Army officer suspected of involvement in the brutal murders of two human rights leaders.

"We are glad that finally, Army M/Sgt. Donald Caigas was arrested," said Alog.

Caigas was arrested in Fort Bonifacio on Tuesday, several days after the 204th Infantry Brigade based in Oriental Mindoro declared that it did not know Caigas' whereabouts.

Alog, however, remained skeptical. "The arrest of Sgt. Caigas, though it shows progress, still doesn't prove (that) the state is willing to prosecute the big fish and masterminds of human rights abuses in the country."

Bayan maintained that Col. Jovito Palparan, the former Army commander in Oriental Mindoro, was the alleged mastermind of the series of abductions, forced disappearances and summary executions in the island province. *Marlon Ramos and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Police has new suspect in radioman's murder

LUCENA CITY—Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Calabarzon police chief, yesterday announced that Task Force Polly would soon present the third suspect in the bloody murder of dwTI broadcaster Apolinario "Polly" Pobeda that would help resolve the case.

Caringal disclosed that the third suspect, earlier reported to be hiding in Laguna, was the second triggerman that shot the hard-hitting commentator in different parts of the body on May 17 while on his way to the radio station.

"We're about to get him. His arrest will greatly help the investigation toward the conclusion of the case. We're conducting no-letup efforts here," he said.

The two arrested suspects, brothers Eulogio and Eric Patulay, are now temporarily detained at the PRO4 cells in Camp Vicente Lim in Canlubang, Laguna.

Caringal begged for understanding of the refusal by the police team handling the case to divulge more details of the investigation.

He clarified that contrary to the perception of those concerned with the case, there was no effort to hide the items seized from the suspects or mislead the investigation.

"We don't have to explain the (rationale) behind our every move. If we immediately present all the recovered items before the public, we would just alert those (whom) we don't want alerted," he stressed.

He said the Calabarzon police is "not siding with any party and we're also not focusing our effort (on pinning) down anyone. What we're after is (only) the end-result of our investigation."

Short of commending the leadership of Quezon police chief Supt. Ricardo Padilla in the investigation of the Pobeda murder, Caringal dubbed "untrue" the report of Padilla's impending ouster due to alleged bungling of the case.

He said his office does not have any copy of Padilla's supposed relief order.

Even the spokesperson of the Justice for Polly Movement expressed surprise on the reported ouster of Padilla.

"PD Padilla has been conducting the Pobeda slay investigation diligently, intelligently and professionally," Antonio Pobeda, retired police superintendent and uncle of the slain radioman, told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

Padilla stressed that he did not bungle the investigation of the case.

The INQUIRER learned that a senior police officer was the one who leaked the information that some items that would be used as evidence in the case were missing.

The political detractors of Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga apparently picked up the information and have since pressured Padilla to reveal its content, he said.

Padilla also showed the copy of the "memorandum receipt" for the .45-caliber Colt pistol, four magazines and 50 rounds of ammunition that were issued to Eulogio on March 14.

The MR was approved and signed by Talaga and Lucena police station chief Danny Ramon Siongco, who is now on leave.

Talaga brushed aside any importance of the documents that debunked his previous claims that the suspects were mere "volunteer campaign companions."

He maintained that he no longer remembered all the documents that he had signed.

"But granting that my signature is genuine, does it mean anything that would link me to the murder? Let us all remember that the ballistic examination on the guns turned out negative," he added.

He maintained that the Patulay brothers were both "framed-up" to link him to the Pobeda slay. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 389 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Hearing of libel case vs 3 journalists stalled

OZAMIZ CITY—The opening of the libel case filed by Tangub City Mayor Jennifer Wee-Tan against three writers for the Cagayan de Oro-based Mindanao Gold Star Daily was stalled after the judge handling the case has filed for retirement.

Resurreccion Inting, presiding judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 16 in Tangub City, filed for retirement from his official duties middle of May.

And in the run-up to his retirement day, he went on an official leave of absence beginning May 25.

Inting revealed his desire to go back to private legal practice as soon as he has officially bowed out of judicial his duties.

As RTC presiding judge, Inting issued the warrant for the arrest of the Gold Star journalists, led by executive editor Herbie Gomez, photojournalist Joey Nacalaban, and Ozamiz Bureau chief Marife Dorona. All three were able to post bail for their temporary liberty.

The arrest of the journalists came after City Prosecutor Sylvia Singidas-Machacon found probable cause against them in connection with Tan's complaint.

The libel suit stemmed from a story that came out in the Gold Star on July 8, 2002 about the foreign trip of local officials in connection with the controversial coal-fired power plant project in Misamis Oriental.

Tan said in the news item, she was labeled as a junketeer and a traitor. She said the names of Gomez, Nacalaban and Dorona appeared as writers of the story.

A ranking court officer intimated that it normally takes a few weeks before the Supreme Court could appoint someone to act as presiding judge while the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) selects the person who will permanently replace Inting in the post.

Two presiding judges were reportedly considered likely successors of Inting. They are Salome Dungog of Tangub City RTC branch 35 and Henry Damasing of Ozamiz City RTC branch 16. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

It's official, Singapore is off WHO's SARS list.

"From the start, Singapore's handling of its SARS outbreak has been exemplary... This is an inspiring victory that should make all of us optimistic that SARS can be contained everywhere."

- Dr David Heymann, Executive Director for Communicable Diseases at World Health Organization

Friday, May 30, 2003

It is our pleasure to share with you the good news that as of 31 May 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) has removed Singapore from the list of countries affected by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This makes Singapore the third country in Asia, after Vietnam and Philippines, to be removed from the WHO's list.

The decision by WHO recognizes the wide range of precautionary measures which Singapore has initiated and which will remain in place to prevent the spread of SARS.

We believe the decision by WHO and the ongoing precautions reinforce that Singapore is a safe destination for all visitors.

Kristin E. Paulson
Chairman
The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore

Philip Forrest
President
Australian Chamber of Commerce Singapore

Shanker Iyer
President
British Chamber of Commerce Singapore
President
European Chamber of Commerce (Singapore)

Patrick Wale
Immediate Past Chairman & Present Board Member
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
Managing Director
Aviva Asia Pte Ltd

Boon Yoon Chiang
Past Chairman and Present Board Member
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
Chairman / Managing Director
Jardine Matheson (Singapore) Ltd

Phillip Overmyer
Executive Director
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce

Joanne Blakemore
President
American Association of Singapore

Angeline Suparto
Vice President
Indonesian Business Association of Singapore

R. K. Bakshi
Chief Executive, Singapore
Bank of India

Christopher H. James
Board Member
The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
Manager Human Resource, S.E.A.
Bechtel International, Inc.

Douglas Miller
Board Member
The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
Board Member
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
Vice President
Boeing International Corporation

Spencer Lee
Executive Vice President and Country Head, Singapore
Maybank

Katharine Bostick
Board Member
The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
Senior Corporate Attorney
Microsoft Singapore

Keith Budge
Regional Managing Director, South Asia
Oracle Corporation (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Lee Tzu Yang
Board Member
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
Chairman
Shell Companies in Singapore

Euleen Goh
Board Member
Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
Chief Executive, Singapore
Standard Chartered Bank

Rupert Keeley
President and Chief Executive Officer
VISA International Asia Pacific Ltd

For more information, please visit www.visitsingapore.com and www.singaporecanlah.com

CBCP dares Limcaoco: Name bishops urging GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Armand N. Nocum

MOST members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines want President Macapagal-Arroyo to run, according to her adviser on ecclesiastical and media affairs.

"By and large, my sense is most of the bishops want the President to run and will probably support [her] if she changes her mind," Conrado Limcaoco said in an interview yesterday in Malacañang. "But I don't know if they're really urging her [to do so]."

Asked to comment, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former CBCP head, said: "That is so far from the truth. Let him name them so that we can check and counter-check. But what is certain is this: I have not [endorsed Ms Macapagal's candidacy]."

Cruz said Ms Macapagal would lose her moral authority and credibility if she changes her mind about not running in 2004.

"Supposing she is elected, how can you trust her word when even before elections are here, she already turned about-face on her word? How can you believe her?" said the outspoken archbishop of Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Cruz said that "no matter what happens, I am binding her to her word."

He said that should Ms Macapagal run, "she will just be a repeat of her father," the late former President Diosdado Macapagal, who once announced that he would not seek reelection but later did.

Word of honor

"What's it all about, don't we have *palabra de honor* here anymore?" Cruz said.

But for Limcaoco, that precious quality hardly matters anymore.

Told that the President had given her word of honor that she would not run in 2004, Limcaoco said: "There are other important things than word of honor."

Most Catholic bishops think Ms Macapagal is doing a good job although they do not always agree with her policies, he said.

He said many Cabinet officials also want the President to run.

"But it doesn't really matter, knowing the President," he added. "It's her own discernment, her own peace of mind [that matters]."

'Clamor'

For the first time, Malacañang acknowledged a "clamor" for a Macapagal candidacy.

Joey Rufino, the President's adviser on political affairs, said that even before the purported endorsements of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the US and South Korean presidents, "there has been a lot of clamor from the local government units, barangays, municipalities and provinces urging her to reconsider her earlier decision and run again."

Rufino, executive director of the ruling Lakas-CMD, said non-Lakas local officials also wanted the President to run.

He said the Lakas executive committee would seek a meeting with Ms Macapagal when she returns from Japan "and take this matter up with [her] because we respect her."

"I don't [want] to speculate, but events are unfolding [so] rapidly that there could be some decisions made," Rufino said.

But he said that "up to now, the President is really set [on] not running."

At his regular news briefing, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye expressed thanks to Sin et al. "for their appreciation of what the President has been doing."

"That means [she] is doing her job very well," Bunye said. "[But] she has said her piece. She said she is more comfortable being a non-candidate."

Later in response to a question, Bunye said the clamor for Ms Macapagal to run was not "artificially" created by some people close to her.

"We dispute the premise of the question . . . that this is an artificial clamor," he said.

'Mahathir also wants GMA to run in 2004'

From page A1

how the President works. They're comfortable with her, and they feel that she deserves a crack at another term," the source said.

"The choice of their leader is up to the Filipino people. I do not endorse anyone. I leave the judgment to the electorate," the cardinal said in a statement issued by the Archdiocesan Office of Communications.

He added: "I encourage qualified people. In my heart, I know that the President might not be the only good candidate for the position. There can be others. I will give my blessing to all these good people who I think will serve the Filipinos with dedication, selflessness and integrity."

In the same statement, Sin's spokesperson Bishop Socrates Villegas said the cardinal's "encouragement" to the President was "in accordance with our democratic ways."

Villegas expressed Sin's belief that "good people, those who are honest, sincere and committed to serve the country, should be encouraged to run for office."

70 signatures

At the House, Speaker Jose de Venecia insisted that Ms Macapagal would not run for president next year.

According to a statement issued by his office, De Venecia told radio station dzBB that the President said as much when members of the ruling Lakas asked her whether she would reconsider her decision.

"We asked her, and she is really adamant against running," De Venecia said. "She merely wants to concentrate on putting the country in order."

Nevertheless, Ms Macapagal's allies are bent on convincing her to change her mind.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said 70 congressmen have signed his letter appealing to Ms Macapagal to run in 2004.

In an interview with reporters, Gonzalez said he had heard of a similar signature campaign launched by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco at the grass-roots level.

Syjuco and a group calling itself the "Alliance for Gloria's Re-Election" took out a newspaper advertisement two weeks ago urging Ms Macapagal to run.

Gonzalez said he now plans to give his letter addressed to the President to the office of Jose Ma. Rufino, political adviser of Ms Macapagal and head of the Lakas national secretariat.

"This is my way of nominating the President," he said.

In his letter, Gonzalez wrote: "These trying times call for true leadership which you must continue to give. This generation of Filipinos has a rendezvous with destiny. Please lead them to that destiny."

Gonzalez said he was no longer aiming for 100 signatures of congressmen because he would not be able to convince the 18-member opposition, the 12 party-list representatives, and the 50-member Nationalist People's Coalition to support the initiative.

BIG applause for the little lady: President Macapagal is warmly received by Japanese executives at the Natural Gas CEO Roundtable talks at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

But he said among those who signed were members of Lakas, including those who had earlier signed a resolution supporting the candidacy of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, as well as that of former Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Pros and cons

Senators weighed in on the issue of the moment.

Lakas Sen. Manuel Villar said Ms Macapagal had every right to go back on her word, especially with pressure from influential sectors and people for her to do so.

"To me, if she changes her mind, that's up to her," Villar told reporters. "She can always run. In fact, most people today do not believe that she will not run. I am one of the few who still believe that she will not run. But I will not take it against her if she changes her mind."

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta lamented what she called "heightened maneuvers" by Malacañang allies to train public attention on politics by insisting that the President might run in 2004.

"These sycophants out to protect their own political interests are doing the President more harm than good because their acts would only diminish [her] credibility before the public and edge out urgent concerns that her administration has overlooked owing to this fixation with politics," Oreta said.

Opposition congressmen are undaunted by calls for Ms Macapagal to run.

"If she wants to run, let her," Cavite City Rep. Gilbert Remulla said. "It's not like the opposition members would be shaking in their boots."

Remulla also said he was confident that Ms Macapagal would lose anyway.

In a statement, Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra dismissed Bush's supposed endorsement of Ms Macapagal, saying her allies who disclosed this had "mortally damaged" her election chances.

"In Philippine politics, being an Amgirl (American girl) is a handicap," Mitra said. "If her allies would like to see her run and win, they should attribute local reasons for her decision to reenter the political ring. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Armand N. Nocum in Manila*

GMA calls UN too feeble to be effective, urges major reforms

From page A1

trafficking, are global in scope and cannot be managed individually or even regionally," Ms Macapagal said in her speech in the forum on "The Future of Asia."

President Macapagal said that the post-Iraq war era created a "new geopolitical environment" resulting in a "realignment of relations in Asia marked by several trends, including greater national self-reliance and national sovereignty bolstered by strengthened regional cooperation and more strategic global engagement."

In her speech, Ms Macapagal reiterated the need to resolve the crisis spawned by North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons program. The Philippines is one of only a handful of nations with formal diplomatic ties with North Korea.

She called on Japan, the biggest economy in Asia, to play a greater economic and security role in the region.

Ms Macapagal noted that the Asean Regional Forum has become the "necessary lynchpin for security and political dialogue in the region."

The ARF is composed of the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations and 13 of its so-called dialogue partners.

These include, among other nations, the United States, Japan, China, Russia and the European Union.

Evening arrival

The President arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday evening.

She went straight to a dinner with executives of major Japanese companies doing business in the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal offered them a 15-percent discount in their power bills if their electricity usage exceeds 1,000 megawatts per month—that is, if they expand operations.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the Luzon grid had excess power production, making such a discount possible.

The President was scheduled to meet another group of Japanese executives yesterday afternoon.

President Macapagal will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi today.

The two leaders are expected to take up the North Korean issue, among other matters.

At the symposium on Asia's future, the President said a true resolution of the problem required compromise on all sides, with North Korea agreeing to drop its nuclear weapons program and other nations pledging to guarantee its communist political system and to extend economic aid.

"North Korea should build up its economy, and build down its military capability, especially its nuclear weapons capability," she said.

"We will do our role to help peace and stability, and help North Korea integrate into the regional economy," she added. "That is what their people need, and what the region should pledge to do."

The sentiment was echoed by other roundtable speakers, including Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Ms Macapagal also praised China for its diplomatic role in trying to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis and called for economic aid to be extended to the isolationist state.

"The current Korean crisis is both a challenge and a great opportunity for multilateral diplomacy," she said, applauding China-brokered talks between North Korea and the United States in April.

"China's efforts at the start of the trilateral meeting were truly commendable," she told a Tokyo symposium on Asia's future. *With reports from AP, Reuters, AFP*

John O advises Erap: Stop it, no need to call for people power

From page A1

tial spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, referring to the recent state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States.

Osmeña suggested that Estrada instead pick a candidate for next year's presidential election. "He should tell our countrymen that, if they still believe in his leadership, they should support his presidential candidate," the senator from Cebu said.

A similar line was taken by Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, deputy chief for administration of the Philippine National Police. He asked pro-Estrada groups to ventilate their anger toward the administration through the elections and not through mass actions.

Detrimental

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said any call by Estrada for another people power revolt would be detrimental to the country. "It will cause further unrest," he said.

An "Edsa IV," Pimentel said, might weaken the impeachment complaint that Estrada filed on June 2 against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other Supreme Court justices who upheld the legality of Vice President Macapagal's ascension to the presidency in January 2001.

"It would look like it was meant to be a political gimmick if there is really a call for people power," Pimentel said of the impeachment complaint.

He, however, cautioned his fellow senators "to go slow in prejudging the case."

Osmeña acknowledged that the filing of the impeachment complaint against the Supreme Court justices had political undertones.

"Impeachment is a political process. It always has political color. So (comments that it has) political color are (nothing new)," he said.

While administration senators believe that the impeachment complaint will not prosper for lack for merit, Osmeña thinks it will reach the Senate.

"That is going to be brought to the Senate, and I will be one of the judges. So I don't want to comment on it. I have to maintain a certain amount of circumspection," he said.

Rene Saguisag, Estrada's lawyer, based the impeachment complaint on Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban's book, which said that Davide had relied on passages of the Bible in deciding the fate of Estrada.

Besides Davide and Panganiban, Justices Antonio Carpio, Leonardo Quisumbing, Josue Bellosillo, Renato Corona, Reynato Puno and Jose Vitug were included in the complaint.

Quisumbing not included?

Quisumbing said the justices should not be held liable for going to Ms Macapagal's oath-taking at the Edsa Shrine during Edsa II.

"Don't justices have any freedom—like freedom of conscience? This is my personal opinion," Quisumbing said.

"What they're saying is different. (That it was partisan). But partisan is different from (enjoying) political (rights). I was a professor of political law," he added.

Quisumbing also noted a lapse in the impeachment complaint. He said his name was not included in the list of respondents in the body of the complaint on page one.

"Is there a Quisumbing there. Thank you Mr. Saguisag. I'm not included so I have nothing to say," he said.

"Thank you *na lang* because he exempted me," Quisumbing added. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Dona Pazzibugan*

Bush is not absentee voter of RP, Roco scoffs

From page A1

dorse local candidates could displease Filipinos, particularly the youth.

"It's ugly," he said. "We're working to gain respect but with this, it seems we're just matches in a matchbox."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, president of the ruling Lakas-CMD, said there was as yet no formal party resolution endorsing Ms Macapagal's candidacy in 2004.

"It is up to the President. What she has told us, and is still telling us, is she will not change her mind," Guingona said.

He also said he was not privy to the reported endorsement of Bush and of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"What we have only seen are news reports," he said. "I have not had the privilege of obtaining first-hand knowledge of the position of Mr. Bush. We are a nation of 78 million people, and I do not know if we should leave it to one man to decide."

Doubt

Roco said he doubted that Sin had indeed urged Ms Macapagal to run in 2004, as disclosed by a source close to the President.

(See story on Page A1.)

As for Roh, he was probably not making an endorsement when he supposedly told Ms Macapagal during her state visit to Seoul that the Philippines needed her, Roco said.

"When Roh said 'the country needs you,' it doesn't necessarily mean that it needs you after 2004," he added.

Guingona said reports of Lakas asking Ms Macapagal to change her mind remained in the realm of speculation.

"I am not aware of any party position on the matter of asking the President to run. The party directorate has yet to discuss that issue, much less make a decision," he said.

On the possibility of Ms Macapagal becoming prime minister under an amended Constitution, Guingona said Charter change was still a remote possibility.

"That is speculative," he said. "It assumes that Charter change is a done deal. I am not in favor of changing the Constitution through a constituent assembly."

He added: "If it does succeed and there is a Parliament, the choice of who will be prime minister will be up to the assembly."

Braganza touted to replace Rufino

From page A1

source said on condition of anonymity.

Rufino will be replaced for medical reasons, the source added.

When reached for comment in Manila, however, Rufino said the news was a surprise to him.

"I don't know. I have not heard. *Di pa ako nasasabihan* (I've not been told)," he said, sounding incredulous.

He decried the news "leak." He said he did go on medical leave in April and May, but he has since reassumed his post.

He joined the President's state visit to Washington last month, and attended the Lakas party national directorate meeting last Monday.

Yesterday he was in Malacañang, answering reporters' questions about President Macapagal-Arroyo's plans for 2004.

"I have returned. If people thought (I was not) coming back, well, I'm back," Rufino said.

Braganza himself is currently on medical leave. But the source with the presidential party here said: "It's really up to Nani if he doesn't want to come back as press secretary."

"We can't drop him just like that," the source said. "He has made a lot of sacrifices for this administration."

Ms Macapagal is currently on a state visit to Japan.

Health problems

In April, Braganza had offered to resign, citing health problems as his official reason.

Malacañang insiders, however, said the unofficial reason Braganza wanted out was his bitter turf war with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

Braganza and Tiglao once even had a shouting match in front of the President.

When he offered to quit, Braganza asked Ms Macapagal to name Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod as his replacement.

In Tokyo, the highly placed source literally pointed to Alingod as the likely new press secretary.

Alingod, who will turn 61 this August, is a veteran newsman, having spent nine years with GMA-7, retiring as the network's vice president for news and public affairs.

He was appointed to head Radio Television Malacañang last December immediately after retiring from private media. When Braganza became press chief, Alingod was promptly promoted to press undersecretary.

Alingod also enjoys excellent relations with presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Alingod and Bunye became friends when they were still young radio reporters.

Alingod is no stranger to government media work, having spent 11 years under the Department of Public Information during the Marcos years.

Last week, a Palace official, pleading anonymity, said Tiglao's deputy Roberto "Bobby" Capco was the front-runner among prospective appointees to replace Braganza.

Capco was press undersecretary when Braganza was appointed in January but moved out of the OPS because of the Tiglao-Braganza turf war.

Capco, a media operator for Ms Macapagal since she was a senator, is allied with Tiglao.

Tiglao is in charge of Malacañang's overall communications program. He is a former press secretary and presidential spokesperson.

Other names mentioned, aside from Alingod and Capco, include Press Undersecretary Carmencita Suva, Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, and Serge Remonde, head of the government-sequestered RPN-9 television station. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

More men . . .

From page A1

faster rate than women, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

Men's use of fat injections to soften deep wrinkles leaped 497 percent last year from the previous year. Women's use of the injections fell 36 percent, according to the survey of the American Academy of Facial and Plastic Reconstructive Surgeons.

Men's use of botox injections to eliminate frown lines rose 88 percent, while women's botox use fell 8 percent, it said.

And for smoothing skin, use of microdermabrasion among men rose 79 percent and use of laser resurfacing rose 13 percent, the survey showed.

Women's use of microdermabrasion dropped 13 percent and their use of laser resurfacing dropped 38 percent during the same time period, the survey showed.

The number of men getting rhinoplasty—more commonly known as nose jobs—rose 47 percent, while the number of women doing so rose 5 percent, it said.

Typically, men and women visiting plastic surgeons for cosmetic reasons were aged 40 to 59, it said.

According to the study, 44 percent of men and 57 percent of women tell their doctors that looking younger is the reason they are choosing cosmetic surgery.

But men were more likely than women to say they wanted facial cosmetic surgery for work-related reasons, it said.

The study was conducted through written questionnaires sent out from Jan. 20 to March 3 among the more than 2,600 members of the association, who focus on treatment of the face, head and neck.

By comparison, in the prior year, women's use of botox rose 60 percent while men's fell 14 percent; women's use of laser resurfacing rose 13 percent while men's fell 19 percent; women's use of fat injections fell 17 percent and men's fell 54 percent; and women's use of microdermabrasion fell 46 percent and men's use fell 78 percent, the survey said. *Reuters*

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What Drives You · CALTEX

Graft raps filed against contractor, 26 PEA execs

From page A1

of the road, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard.

Victory for whistle-blower

A 60-page resolution approved yesterday by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo spelled initial victory for whistleblower Sulficio Tagud, himself a former PEA director, who along with 15 civil society groups, filed a plunder complaint in October last year. Tagud described the boulevard as the "most expensive asphalt road in the country."

The plunder complaint, however, was downgraded to graft.

The complaint failed to give sufficient proof that the respondents had enriched themselves by at least P50 million—an element of plunder—as a result of the project, Marcelo explained in an interview.

The respondents from the PEA include members of its board of directors during the Estrada and Macapagal administrations. The latter officials were pressured into resigning their posts by Malacañang a few months after Tagud's exposé.

Respondents from the Estrada-appointed board are led by then PEA Chair Francisco San Juan, with Carlos Doble, Carmelita de Leon, Daniel Dayan, Salvador Malbarosa, Leo Padilla and Elpidio Damaso.

Respondents from the Macapagal-appointed board are then Chair Ernest Villareal, Benjamin Cariño, Joemari Gerochi, Angelito Villanueva, Martin Sanciego Jr. and Rodolfo Tuazon, a former Western Samar congressman.

Also charged from the PEA management are Ernesto Ernriquez, Jaime Millan, Manuel Beriña, Bernardo Viray, Theron Victor Lacson, Raphael Pocholo Zorilla and Cristina Amposta Mortel.

Manuela de la Paz, Arturo Layug, Benilda Mendoza, Epifanio Pureza, Jose G. Capistrano and Ma. Cecilia de la Rama are the respondents from the Commission on Audit.

Jesusito D. Legaspi, president of JD Legaspi Construction, was the only private respondent in the complaint.

In the resolution, the Ombudsman upheld Tagud et al.'s allegation of gross overpricing: "It would appear that the stretch of road developed by JD Legaspi was overpriced by 250 percent, or P216,449 per linear meter, while the bridge constructed by JD Legaspi was overpriced by at least 67 percent or P768,567 per linear meter," the resolution read.

The anti-graft agency arrived at the figures by comparing the costs of JD Legaspi Construction with those incurred by the two other contractors that built other portions of the road, namely Wenceslao/R-1 Consortium and SM Inc.

"Said public respondents gave unwarranted benefits, preference and advantage to respondent Legaspi and caused undue injury to the government as their acts resulted in the overpricing of the PDMB project amounting to millions of pesos," the resolution said.

The government, it concluded, "suffered undue injury, at the very least, in the amount of P532,926,420.39."

The resolution also noted that the PDMB project was "obviously attended by the failure to observe numerous legal requirements since its bidding stage."

Among the alleged legal infirmities of the project were as follows:

- It was bid out in September 1999 despite the "lack of sufficient appropriation and certificate of availability of funds;"
- The respondents also decided to divide the contract of JD Legaspi Construction into two phases " in an obvious attempt to circumvent the requirement of the law on appropriation and availability of funds;"
- The construction agreement between the PEA and JD Legaspi was rendered "void" by the PEA's failure to secure presidential approval for "all extra works and price adjustments."
- The PEA did not observe procedures for "simplified bidding" set forth by Presidential Decree 1594;
- The PEA's estimate of the cost of the JD Legaspi project was a product of "mere guesswork" since it conducted soil condition tests on the site two months after the bidding. Under PD 1594, such tests and other on-site investigations should have been conducted prior to the bidding process to arrive at a "realistic cost estimate."

Cayetano ...

From page A1

Barbers' committee, with the blue ribbon and national defense committees, investigated Lacson in 2001.

Though it took the Senate two hours before it could get a quorum, the majority bloc succeeded in calendaring the report for deliberations.

But due to lack of time, and in deference to Lacson's absence, Barbers and the other administration senators agreed to discuss the report when the Senate resumes its sessions on July 28.

Power-sharing agreement

A power-sharing agreement forged among administration senators in July 2001 allowed Sen. Franklin Drilon 18 months to head the Senate, while Cayetano was to take over the rest of the three-year term.

Cayetano should have assumed the presidency in December 2002 were it not for his illness that reportedly required a liver transplant last February.

Sought for comment, both the majority and minority blocs in the Senate had mixed reactions over the fitness of the lawyer-senator to assume the Senate presidency.

Cayetano did not show up during the Senate session as he had decided to rest. He plans to assume his official functions when the Senate sessions resume.

Drilon himself refused to comment on Cayetano's return, saying "It's a little bit in bad taste to talk about it." But he said he was willing to "honor" the gentleman's agreement.

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña said he was supportive of Drilon's leadership and would convince his colleagues in the minority to back him up.

Osmeña stressed that despite the agreement, Cayetano had an uphill battle because he needed a total of 13 votes to get the plum post.

But the majority itself, composed of 13 of the present 23-member Senate, is divided over the issue.

Sen. Joker Arroyo echoed Drilon, saying it was improper to discuss the issue at this point. But in an earlier interview, Arroyo admitted that Drilon should honor the agreement.

Barbers said that he would push for Cayetano's assumption of the Senate presidency. He also pointed out that he was bound by the agreement because he had signed it. "I will push for it," said Barbers, who is scheduled to meet with Cayetano today.

Go slow

But administration Senators Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. want the administration to go slow on the reorganization.

Pangilinan said Cayetano's presence in the Senate would not lead to an immediate revamp in the Senate leadership.

"We will sit down and discuss this issue first," he said.

Magsaysay said, "We have to look at the situation. We can't bind (the Senate) to what was binding a year and a half ago." He also stressed that the Senate should first ascertain Cayetano's physical fitness.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel stressed that the agreement between Cayetano and Drilon "binds only themselves. We are free to decide one way or the other, or the third way."

Only Osmeña, Honasan

On the last day of the second regular session of the 12th Congress, the opposition was represented only by Osmeña and Sen. Gregorio Honasan. Senators Loi Estrada and Sergio Osmeña III showed up but later dropped out of sight.

Once the majority bloc had 10 senators present, it pushed through with the session, with Osmeña immediately blocking the revival of the report on Lacson.

Osmeña said that the transfer of the report to the special order of business from ordinary order of business "was not in order." In the first place, he added, the report was not even among those calendared for ordinary order of business.

Osmeña resorted to technicalities because the transfer of the report would allow the entire Senate to take cognizance of the report, and immediately discuss it on the floor.

Retailers decry NFA scheme

By Tina Santos

RETAILERS in Malabon City yesterday complained that they could not buy rice from the National Food Authority without having to buy notebooks with the picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo on the cover.

Rice retailer Clarita Eneria of Potrero, Malabon, told the INQUIRER that NFA had been forcing them to buy P200 worth of "GMA notebooks."

"They would not take our orders (of rice) if we refused to buy notebooks," Eneria said.

She related that the notebooks were "cheap" but were hard to sell because of Arroyo's picture.

"Some think we just got them for free," the businesswoman lamented.

Eneria said when the agency started selling them notebooks in May they thought it was a "one-time" deal only to discover that it was "compulsory."

Eneria and other retailers are appealing to Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval, who lent them the P15,000 capital for their business, to look into the "policy."

Reached for comment, NFA officers gave conflicting statements.

Mauro Gonzales of the NFA's rice distribution section admitted to the INQUIRER that the purchase of the notebooks were "compulsory" based on the orders of administrator Arthur Yap.

Gonzales' superior lawyer Absalum Siruhales, however, denied this.

Police uncover AFP loan syndicate

STILL LUCKY — ERIK ARAZAS

Despite an accident, passengers of this van have something to thank for after no one was seriously hurt when a car hit their vehicle while it was crossing the intersection of Vito Cruz Street along the South Super Highway in Manila yesterday.

Retired soldiers left to pay debt they never availed of

By Alcuin Papa

CENTRAL Police District operatives have arrested two persons suspected of being part of a syndicate that victimizes retired members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Initial assessment shows that the syndicate operates by securing loans from various lending agencies and leaves the unsuspecting retiree to pay for it from his monthly pension.

The CPD Criminal Investigation Unit identified those arrested as Ramil Hassan, 38, of Palar Village, Makati City; and SPO3 Nursa Gonzales, of Diego Silang, BCDA, Taguig, a retired member of the Philippine National Police.

Hassan and Gonzales were collared after they reportedly collected a P500,000 check from the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association (AMWSLA) in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

According to investigators, Hassan applied for a P500,000 loan with the AMWSLA last week under the name of retired Army 2Lt. Ramil Jubilan of Pigcawayan, North Cotabato.

Hassan reportedly even produced an AFP retired member ID card and a driver's license with Jubilan's name.

However, AMWSLA senior accountant Daniel Damapindan noticed discrepancies in the application of Hassan.

"The AFP serial number submitted to me indicated that the age of the applicant should be around 50 years old. But when I saw the picture of the suspect, he did not look like he was 50. He looked a lot younger," Damapindan told the INQUIRER.

Suspicious, Damapindan alerted the military police in Camp Aguinaldo.

An entrapment was set and Hassan and Gonzales were arrested after getting the check for the loan the other day.

Seized from the suspects were falsified documents with the name of Jubilan.

Arresting officers also found a Social Security System identification card bearing Hassan's real name.

Under interrogation, Hassan said a certain Wanda Bello, 40, of Centurion Street, Palar Village, C-5, Makati City, asked him to secure the loan.

The woman then allegedly instructed Hassan to bring the check to her.

Damapindan said he and AFP personnel tried to track down and arrest Bello but failed.

Investigators believe that a syndicate was falsifying AFP retirement documents to apply for loans from financial institutions like the AMWSLA.

Further investigation revealed that Hassan had also applied for a P175,000 loan from the retirement loan association Integrity also under the name of Jubilan.

Hassan and Gonzales have been detained at the CPD headquarters pending the filing of estafa charges against them.

2 'Double-Your-Money' suspects fall

THE POLICE yesterday announced the arrest of two men who allegedly trick victims into handing over millions of pesos in cash claiming they could multiply these a hundred times over.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, director of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, identified the suspects as Themosticles Rivera, 48, and Armando Gubot, 50, who were nabbed at their houses in General Trias, Cavite and Taytay, Rizal, on Friday and Monday, respectively.

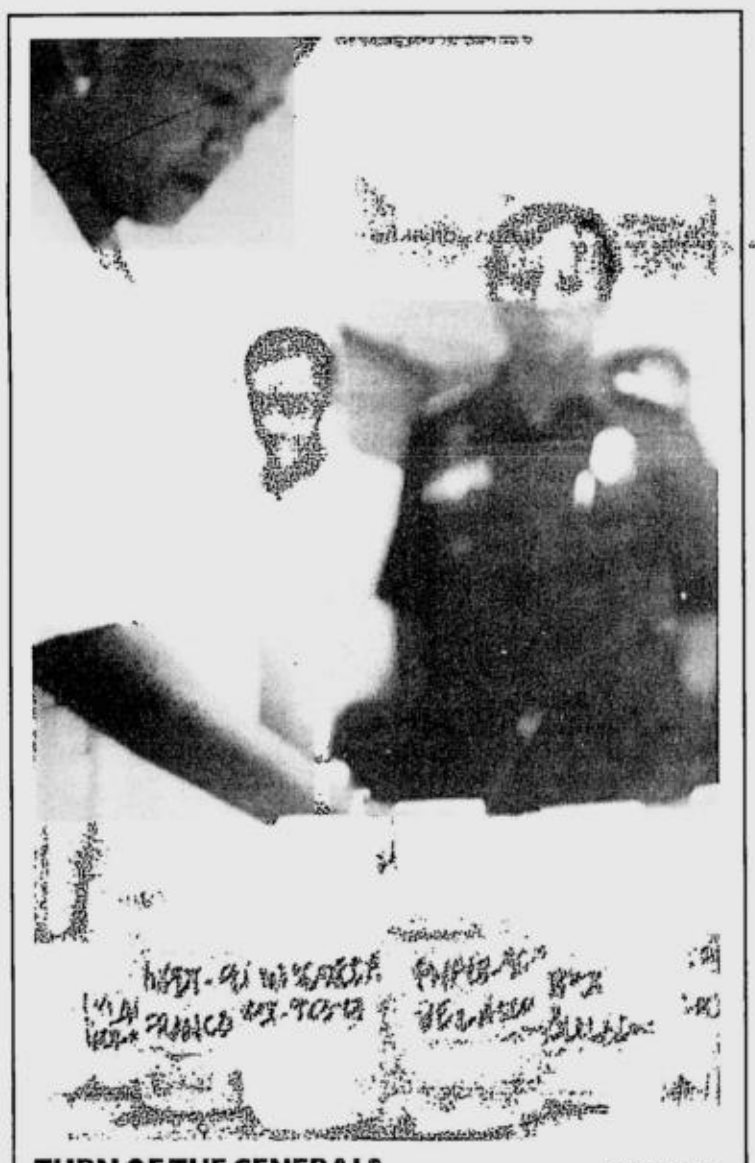
The Cavite Regional Trial Court has issued warrants for their arrest.

They yielded three pieces of a P100 bill bearing the same serial number, ink and other paraphernalia which they allegedly used in altering codes of a genuine peso bill.

Their alleged leader, Reynaldo Chiao, and two other cohorts remain at large.

Verzosa said Rivera and Gubot were part of a group that had duped a businessman of P3 million and a doctor of P5 million after claiming that they could reprint the money many times over.

"Eventually they would run away with their victim's money," Verzosa said. *TJ Burgonio*



TURN OF THE GENERALS — JOAN BONDOC

A medical technician at the PNP Crime Laboratory checks the list of urine samples submitted by police generals for drug testing. The PNP has launched its own mandatory drug testing to identify erring personnel from the top brass to the lowest ranked policeman.

Atienza washes hands of delay in hall project

By Margaux Ortiz

MANILA Mayor Joselito Atienza yesterday dodged blame for the Manila Hall of Justice still missing from the site where the Jai Alai Building used to stand.

Atienza said the Department of Justice had already taken over the hall of justice project and that it was out of the hands of the city government.

"DOJ is now in charge," he said.

The mayor lamented that the delay in the construction came even as Manila had yet to be vindicated for the destruction three years ago of an edifice considered by many as a historical landmark.

"We were extremely criticized with what happened to Jai Alai," Atienza said adding that it had pained him to tear the building down but he had no choice.

"And now what people see at the site is a gaping hole where Jai Alai once stood," he told reporters.

He said that if it were up to the city government, they would finish the structure in no time. "We finished Plaza Miranda in nine months, Liwasang Bonifacio in six months, and Baywalk in two months."

But Mel Ballesteros, a staff member of Justice Undersecretary Ricardo V. Paras, said that construction was on track.

"We are now finished with phase one of the building, which is the foundation," Ballesteros told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Undersecretary Paras is the chairman of the committee in charge of the construction of the Manila Hall of Justice.

Friends, neighbors rally around woman accused of killing Japanese husband

By Leila Salaverria

SHE couldn't even kill a cockroach.

This was how a friend and neighbor of Carmelita Murakami, widow of slain Japanese businessman Hiroo Murakami, described the woman whom police have charged for her husband's murder.

Mrs. Murakami's friends and her neighbors in the Parañaque subdivision where the family live have come to her defense, expressing dismay over her being named a suspect in the killing.

The Japanese trader was shot to death while he was sleeping beside his wife inside their home in Better Living Subdivision last month.

Police have pressed parricide charges against Mrs. Murakami. But her friend and neighbor for 16 years, who did not want to be identified, told the INQUIRER that the widow was a very kind and religious woman who was well-liked in their neighborhood.

"We're hurt (by the allegations against her). (Mrs. Murakami) is very fragile. She couldn't have thought of killing anyone. She couldn't even kill a cockroach," the neighbor said.

Mrs. Murakami even served in church and was a member of Handmaids of the Lord, the neighbor said.

"(Carmelita) is a very religious person. *Lahat na lang tinutulungan niya* (She helps everyone)," the neighbor added.

Another neighbor said Mrs. Murakami would give cash-strapped neighbors with transportation money when they needed to go somewhere.

She was also described as a loyal wife who would leave prayer meetings early so she could be home before 5 p.m. for her family. It was unthinkable to them that Mrs. Murakami would want her husband dead.

"She was absolutely grief-stricken by her loss," said the neighbor.

"I wish police would not inflict more suffering on a woman that had gone through so much loss. We can't help but cry at what was happening."

The parricide charge against Mrs. Murakami was based on circumstantial evidence found at the crime scene and a statement from a witness who claimed that the widow had talked of killing her husband two weeks before his death.

Investigators also said that suspicion fell on the widow because of her initial reluctance to cooperate with police, refusing to give her statement and submit to a paraffin test.

But the couple's son, Artemio, earlier said that his father had enemies as he defended his mother.

"They would never do that," the younger Murakami said. "They loved him so much," referring to his mother and half-brothers, who were also initially suspected of involvement in the killing.

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Palace stops cutting of trees on Katipunan

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MORATORIUM on the Metro Manila Development Authority's demolition of islands and uprooting of trees on Katipunan Avenue has been imposed by Malacañang, according to MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno.

Nacianceno said Fernando had informed him on Tuesday night of Malacañang's decision to impose the moratorium.

"(The moratorium would be imposed) until the President arrives from her trip," Nacianceno told the INQUIRER yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is now in Tokyo, Japan for a working visit.

Nacianceno said that the President would probably decide on the fate of the project after she had received more information about the issues that developed when the MMDA began cutting down the trees.

But the removal of the trees and islands has been stopped following a meeting at Malacañang between Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and representatives of environment groups, officials of schools along Katipunan and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

Nacianceno yesterday said that the MMDA had balled four trees so far.

He added that groups who opposed the plan should offer an alternative rather than criticize the MMDA.

"All of the proposals are coming from the government and it is not to their liking. What is their proposal then? They should have one because the MMDA is giving all the suggestions (to solve the traffic problem)," Nacianceno said.

He said the MMDA had been meeting with representatives of the school community and had already proposed numerous projects, which, however, were rejected by the school.

Among the suggestions was the drop and ride plan, where students of Ateneo would be picked up at a designated terminal and then brought to school by a bus. But parents of the Ateneo students rejected the idea after a series of bomb scares in Metro Manila.

Nacianceno said the MMDA had also proposed the construction of a flyover going directly to Ateneo, a plan that had also been rejected.

The GM said that despite the opposition to the MMDA project, he said the plan to remove the islands would be the most effective solution to ease traffic congestion in Katipunan.

The MMDA had even offered to re-plant the trees removed from the islands to the Ateneo or Miriam campus. In effect, the trees would only be moved a few meters from their original location.

Nacianceno also said the moratorium would hinder traffic flow improvement on Katipunan.

"But (those who opposed the plan) have made their choice. They'd rather have trees than faster roads," he said.

He added, however, that the flow of vehicles on Katipunan has to be fast because the road is part of C-5, which is a highway.

The project to clear Katipunan of islands and trees has been opposed by environmental groups and presidents of the schools along Katipunan.

A SIGN on one of the trees along Katipunan Avenue carries a message to authorities. JOAN BONDOC

Local execs worry over game centers

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN OFFICIAL of the Department of Interior and Local Government yesterday scored mayors for tolerating the proliferation of amusement centers in Metro Manila.

Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman said most joints offering computer network games and video arcades violate local zoning policies and should thus be reprimanded.

He said some of these joints could even be operating without business licenses.

"Violations are everywhere but they're being tolerated," he told the INQUIRER. "Local governments should be handling them at their level."

Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon, head of DILG's anti-illegal gambling task force Jericho, yesterday said four out of five complaints his office regularly receives point to amusement centers.

Parents and school officials often complain that these establishments were luring students out of the classrooms and were even encouraging them to engage in gambling activities, he said.

"We can't do anything about them because technically, they're not considered illegal gambling dens," he said. "We can check if they're violating zoning ordinances or were operating without business permits but this is primarily the job of local governments."

Zoning policies require that no amusement center such as billiard halls, computer gaming joints and nightclubs can operate within a specified distance from schools, churches and residential areas.

Soliman urged the public to file formal complaints at his office against these establishments.

He said he would use these complaints to reprimand local governments, particularly their business permits and licensing offices.

In Manila, concerned parents have appealed to City Hall authorities not to allow any gambling joint to operate near a public high school where their children study.

In a letter to Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, the parents said they were alarmed upon seeing a streamer placed on top of the Puregold Store in Tayuman, Tondo, announcing the opening of a bingo joint.

The parents said they feared that the bingo joint, which will operate across the Jose Rizal High School, might encourage gambling.

The parents have started a signature campaign to drum up support for their cause and urge the city government not to issue any license to gambling establishments.

House to probe cost 'overrun' at LRT

By Christine Avendano

A HOUSE inquiry is being sought on the escalation of costs in the construction of the Pasig-Cubao line of the Light Rail Transit system after it failed to yield huge revenues that the light rail management projected.

In a resolution, Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio claimed that the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) lied when it said that the new line would generate hundreds of thousands of pesos in daily revenues once it starts operation.

The LRT Board approved the request of LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz for the acceleration of the completion of the Pasig-Cubao line from June to the first week of April. This had cost the government an additional P267 million, Baculio said in his resolution.

But according to Enrico B. Garcia, an engineer and project manager of Line 2, there is no basis for the charge that government lost P267 million.

"As a matter of fact, because of the early completion of the project, the government saved P140 million in construction-related costs," Garcia said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

He also said the decision to accelerate the project was not unilaterally made by Cruz but by the LRTA Board.

Baculio, in his resolution. asked: "What was so important in cutting the delivery schedule of the Pasig-Cubao line from June to April 1 and spending P267 million in additional costs when it is just a portion of the entire LRT 2 network that would run from Pasig to Tutuban center in Manila?"

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Line 2 on Marcos Highway in Santolan, Pasig.

"Commuters taking the route would still take another ride to get to the same destination and spend more for their transportation," he said.

That was why the LRT management's projected number of commuters—which was meant to justify the additional costs—was not met, Baculio said.

Revenues of the Pasig to Cubao line averaged only P20,000 daily due to lack of patronage.

The gross revenue of P600,000 a month was not even enough to pay for the monthly P1.6 million electricity expense, he said, adding the LRT had been spending P1 million monthly for other operating expenses.

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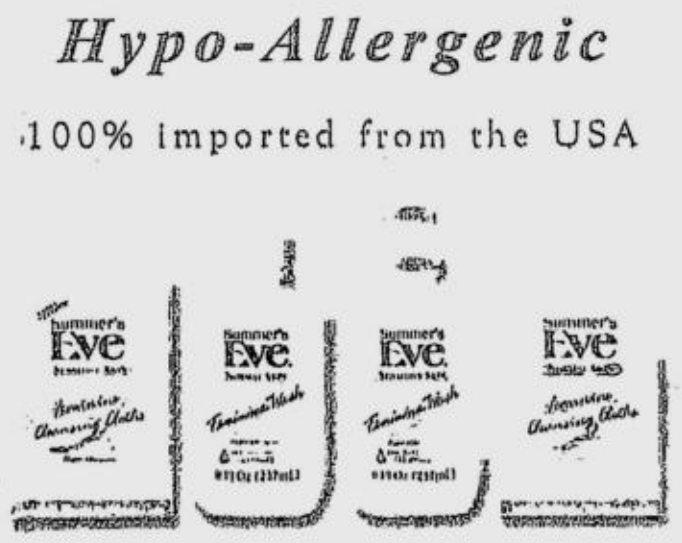

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METROBRIEFS

Killed

CAB DRIVER Juanito Campaya of PNR site in Barangay Putatan was found stabbed to death a few meters away from his taxi in a vacant lot in Better Living Subdivision, Muntinlupa yesterday morning. Police believe Campaya tried to fight off robbers. Sr. Insp. Jose Zorro said Campaya had stab wounds in the body, and his palms had lacerations. A pair of pink and white slippers was also found at the scene. Police believe the slippers belonged to the killers. *Leila Salaverria*

Nabbed

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation have arrested an Iranian, Pezhman Parva, early this month after the foreigner was accused of stealing two cell phones. Criscencio M. Paner, who had placed an advertisement for two units of Nokia 2110 cell phones at P5,500 each, told the NBI that a certain "Omid" had called him last May 8. They agreed to meet, but after Paner showed him the cell phones, the foreigner ran off with the units. A certain Boyet called Paner a few days later, telling him that a "Turk" also offered to buy a cell phone he had advertised. Both filed complaints with the NBI, and Parva was arrested during a buy-bust operation. The NBI later learned that Parva has several arrest warrants against him for estafa. He will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration. *Luige del Puerto*

Murdered

AMELITO Erispe, 17, of Manugult, Tondo, Manila was stabbed to death yesterday morning. Erispe was walking home at about 4 a.m. when about 10 teenagers suddenly ganged up on him. The victim tried to run away, but was cornered by the bullies and stabbed several times in the back, police said. His relatives brought him to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz, Manila, where he later died while undergoing treatment. *Luige del Puerto*

Gunned down

EMILIANO A. Familiar, Jr., 28, of Muntinlupa was killed while Anthony Alvin A. Aguilar, 29, of Ayala Alabang Village, was injured when unidentified gunmen ambushed them in front of Olive Bar in Makati yesterday morning. Familiar died from gunshot wounds in the abdomen and the pelvic area. Aguilar suffered gunshot wounds in the side of his body and in his shoulder, and is now confined at the Makati Medical Center. P02 Jason David said the victims had just left the Olive Bar on Makati Avenue at 3:15 a.m. and were saying goodbye to friends when occupants of a maroon Honda CRV that drove by fired shots at the victims with an automatic pistol before speeding away. *Leila Salaverria*

Pentecost vigil

THE Feast of Pentecost , which is commemorated in the Third Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary (Descent of the Holy Spirit) and officially celebrated as the "Birthday of the Church." A vigil to coincide with the feast will be held in the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Manaoag on Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Philets reunion

ALUMNI and friends of the UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets) will hold a grand reunion at the Quezon City Sports Club starting at 6 p.m. on June 14. The occasion will be highlighted by the conferment of the First Golden Owl Award on four Philets Alumni. Alumni may contact the Philets Foundation Secretariat at 928-5117 (Menchu) or 725-2973 (Lalie).

MWCI races against time to secure vents

By Amy Remo

MANILA Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) just had its wake up call.

The drowning of teenager Randy Diaz on May 17 has prompted MWCI officials to secure all the air ventilation chambers, some of which have yet to be discovered.

When the public water utility was privatized in 1997, MWCI workers began securing the air vents in their area by building grilled fences with a roof over it to prevent accidents from happening. They then covered these with a concrete slab. The workers also refurbished some of the vents. If possible, they also put barbed wires to secure the area.

But these precautions were not enough to prevent the accident that cost Diaz his life.

On May 17, Randy Diaz, 19, was picking fruits from a tree when he fell in one of those shafts in Barangay Quirino, Quezon City.

According to Joel Lacsamana, MWCI corporate communications director, the ventilation chambers throughout Metro Manila number to a couple of hundreds, some of which were still unidentified.

He said they cannot totally close these shafts because lack of air might cause a build-up of pressure due to the rapid flow of water in the pipes.

He said such an action might cause a 'water hammer effect' where the water goes back and forth, with a speed and force of a running freight train, and eventually cause an explosion.

"Some people do not realize the magnitude of disaster (the complete closure of shafts) can cause," Lacsamana said. "Our production of water amounts to 1,500 million liters a day. If an explosion occurs, half of Quezon City will be flooded."

In the 3.4 kilometer-long pipeline, where Diaz's body was found, MWCI officials identified 23 ventilation chambers which they are still trying to secure at present.

Lacsamana said that they are having a hard time doing so.

For instance, he said, they had difficulty in securing the shaft where Diaz fell since it is located in a homeowner's backyard.

"In fact, the vent where Diaz fell was one of the nice ones," Lacsamana said. "We found that some vents are in the middle of a person's house such as in the living room or bedroom."

The Diaz accident does not only raise the question of safety, it also begs an answer to what that shaft is doing in a residential area in the first place.

Ventilation chambers are structures that supply and remove air from the pipelines. They allow the distribution and circulation of air within the pipe to prevent contamination or, in some cases, explosion.

These structures date from the 1930s and were made by American engineers. They are connected to the main pipelines made of steel and concrete which are about 1525 mm to 2100 mm wide—big enough to accommodate a bus.

Built with cement, the ventilation chamber where Diaz fell is one of the pre-war structures, Lacsamana said.

How would the MWCI secure the vents without damaging the house?

"We go for *pakiusap* (friendly persuasion)," Lacsamana said. "We go from one house to another and explain to them the dangers of an unsecured vent."

Diplomacy works best for MWCI since it does not have the authority to simply go inside the houses and build a fence.

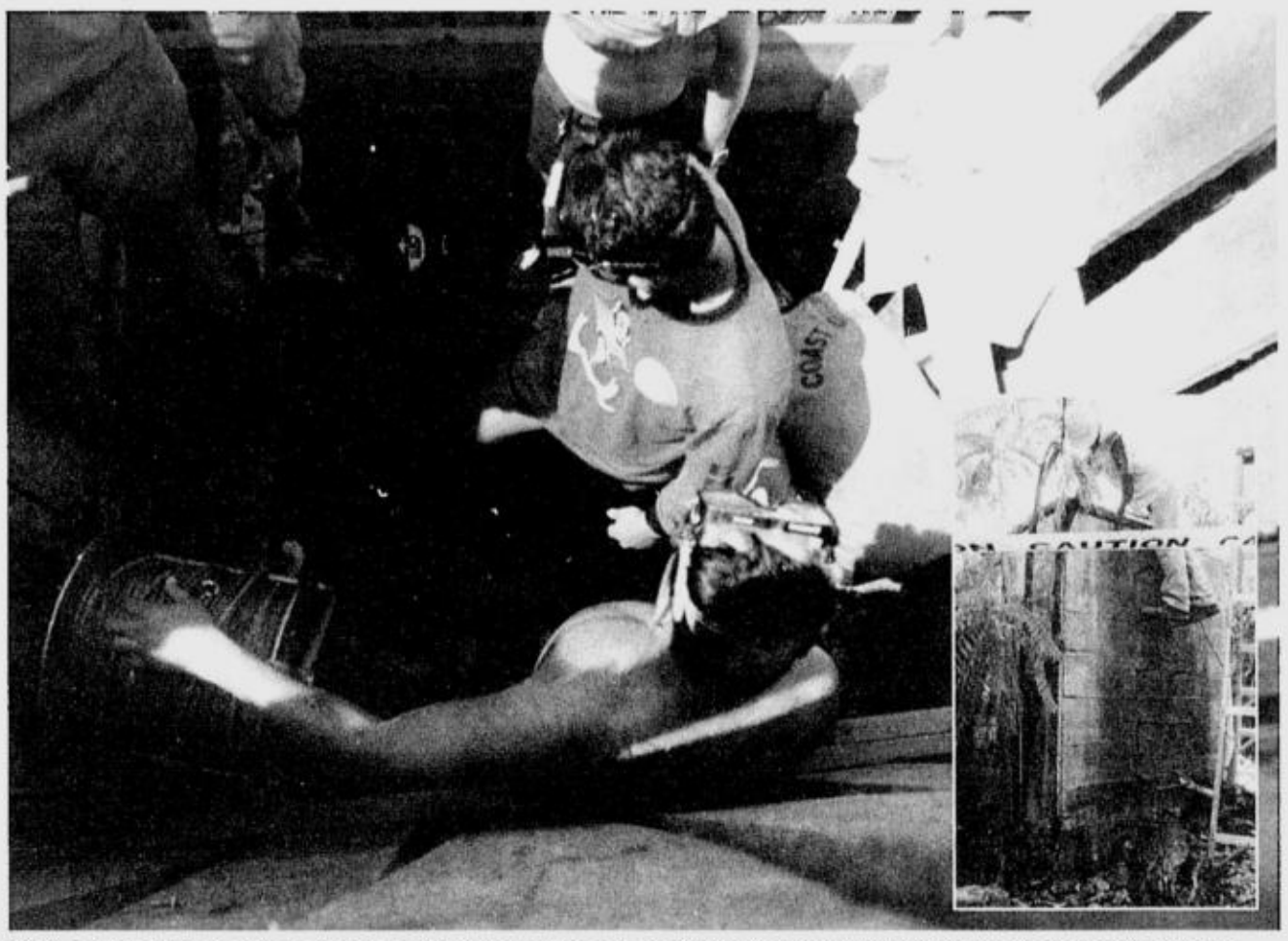
But as a concessionaire, it is also its duty to protect vital water facilities.

In 1996, Diego De Guia of Luzon Avenue, Commonwealth, Quezon City fell into an air vent of the then Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in their area.

Parents of De Guia had told a TV network that it took one month before the body of their son was recovered at the Balara reservoir.

Lacsamana said they never received the file of the De Guia case when they took over the water utility.

With a report from Alcuin Papa



Manila Water engineers punch a hole in the water main for Coast Guard divers to crawl through to recover the body of Randy Diaz. Inset, the air ventilation chamber, where Diaz fell in, is one of several structures which American engineers built in the 1930s. JOAN BONDOC

Randy's soul finds peace

By Alcuin Papa

"FINALLY, (Randy Diaz) can have peace."

Lucy Diaz, the mother of the teenager who fell in an air ventilation chamber in Quezon City on May 17, could only heave a sigh of relief when she heard the news that the body of her son had been recovered.

"We, too, can have some peace of mind, knowing that he would soon be laid to rest," said Lucy, who appeared sad and weary due to her loss.

Lucy said she went to the funeral parlor in Manila where the body of Randy, 19, was taken. But at the last minute, Lucy backed out from viewing the body.

"I couldn't take it," Lucy said in Filipino. "I had a hard time convincing myself to view (Randy's) body. But when the time came, I just couldn't do it."

According to Lucy, the family would have to make do with a closed casket at Randy's wake.

Officials said Randy's remains had badly decomposed after being underwater for more than two weeks.

"I would prefer to remember him the way I saw him last, smiling and so alive," Lucy said.

The family is holding the wake at the barangay hall in Escopa, Quezon City. He will be buried on Sunday.

Marlyn Diaz, Randy's aunt, also recalled how the teenager's restless soul haunted their apartment days after he died.

She said they heard sounds coming from Randy's room in their apartment.

"We would hear a basketball bouncing inside the room," Marlyn said in Filipino. "We knew it was him because he loved to play basketball."

Then there were the times when the stench of a canal would permeate the house.

They had told Manila Water officials to recover Randy's body immediately, Marlyn said.

"We knew then that his soul was not resting well," Lucy said. "It seemed that his spirit was upset. Maybe he didn't want to go and he would not rest until his body had been found."

Seize show elephants, animal rights advocates urge officials

By Jerome Aning

JUMBO, the elephant that escaped from its cage and took a stroll along the streets of Quezon City last May 8 has been staying in the country illegally, according to animal welfare activists.

They have asked the Bureau of Customs to seize the Thai elephant, saying that the animal's permit to stay in the Philippines was only good until Dec. 6, 2002.

Philippine Animal Welfare Society president Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco said that Jumbo's maintainer, Uniprom Inc., "had no business" keeping the elephants here after Dec. 6, 2002, the end of the mandatory six-month stay for imported show animals imposed by the Tariffs and Customs Code.

In a letter dated May 28 to Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, independent animal rights activist Tina Testa asked the bureau initiate "seize and forfeit" proceedings against Uniprom.

Testa wants to stop commercial performances involving Jumbo and other elephants, and to relocate the animals to the Manila Zoo.

"These elephants are overstaying and the Philippine government has all the right under the law to seize them and put them in a better place," Testa told the INQUIRER over the phone.

The activists also hit the agriculture department's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the environment department's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) for failing to coordinate with organizers of the elephant show on the period covered by the permit for the animal's stay in the country for shows at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

Lichauco and Testa said BAI's animal welfare division had given Uniprom a one-year permit that will expire on June 3.

But they said this permit had violated Section 5 of the Tariffs and Customs Code, as interpreted by Customs Administrative Order No. 7-72, which states that imported animals may be used in local shows for up to three months, with an allowable single extension of three more months.

The code's provision complies with the regulations set by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Lichauco and Testa said.

Uniprom's CITES permit, which was issued by the PAWB, expired on Dec. 6, 2002. Provision No. 5 in the permit states that the elephants must be returned to Thailand on or before the expiration date.

The elephants came from Tha toom district, Surin province in Thailand and were exported by a certain Sieng Klangpattana.

Testa cited discrepancies between the BAI and CITES permits in separate letters to BAI director Jose Molina and Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

Lichauco said "the government agencies tasked with the enforcement of laws on wild animals cannot escape responsibility for the elephant's escape. Our laws are precisely intended to prevent such tragedies."

She said the international scandal created by Jumbo's escape was "a clear example of a disaster that comes about when laws on wild animals are taken lightly."

She warned that after the incident the government "could now be vulnerable to suits not only from local but also international sources who are interested in the strict enforcement of laws on wild animals."

JUMBO, the famed elephant who broke out of his cage and roamed free in the streets of Quezon City, is alive and very much in the headlines, thanks to the efforts of animal rights advocates. JOAN BONDOC

Fernando eyeing Laguna, Bicol as potential sites for waste facility

By Leila Salaverria

EVEN after they gave up on plans to set up a garbage facility in two towns in Quezon province, Metro Manila Development Authority officials are not about to let go of Southern Luzon as a possible site for their sanitary landfill project.

While residents of Tiaong and Candelaria are celebrating what they call a victory in their struggle to stop the MMDA from putting up a facility in their towns, officials of the agency have announced that they are considering other sites in Quezon, as well as in the Bicol and Laguna regions, where they could set up a 2,000-hectare waste processing facility.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna on Wednesday said that they have received feelers from Tagbilao town officials, who are considering giving the MMDA the land it needs for the garbage project.

But no formal offer has yet been made, Lacuna clarified.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said that the strong anti-landfill sentiment in Quezon is preventing officials of other towns in the province from announcing its plans at present.

"We have received offers (from other Quezon towns)," Nacianceno said on Wednesday. "But some of them are ... reluctant because of the opposition."

He also said that Bicol is being considered because the area could be reached by railway, even though the province is about 150 kilometers from Metro Manila.

Laguna, on the other hand, is also an ideal location, said Lacuna.

"All towns reached by railways are possible sites," Lacuna said.

MMDA officials want the garbage to be brought to the landfill via railway, which they claimed was an easier and cleaner means of transportation.

In Lucena City, the Quezon Laban sa Basura Movement (QLBM), which has been in the forefront of the struggle against the MMDA's garbage project, held an ecumenical mass to celebrate their victory.

"We've been informed ... that (MMDA Chair Bayani) Fernando had already ... abandoned his project here in Quezon for good," said lawyer Asis Perez, head of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog and one of the principal convenors of QLBM. "That's a very positive development."

Perez on Tuesday said that the QLBM would now focus its attention on how to properly address Quezon's waste disposal problem.

"It's about time (we) address our own problem," Perez said.

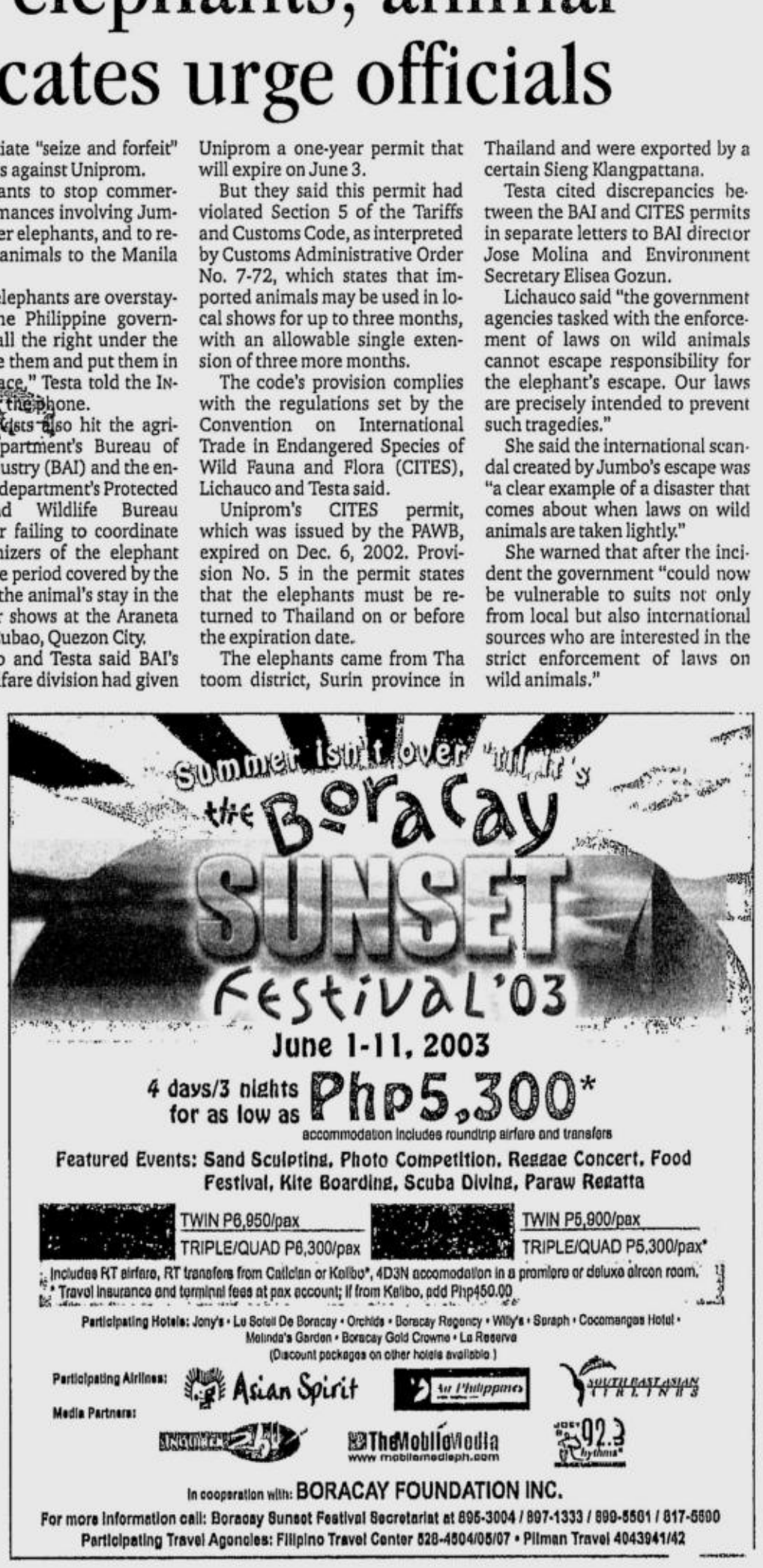
According to reports, Fernando decided to abandon the landfill project in Quezon, after he failed to convince Quezon Catholic Bishop Emilio Marquez to support the project in a meeting last week.

Glenn Forbes, Tanggol-Kalikasan community coordinator, said only the Lucena City government has been exerting significant efforts to follow the mandate of the Solid Waste Management Program of the government.

"The rest of the local governments in the province still practice 'end-of-the-pipeline approach' wherein they just dump their garbage in any vacant space in their locality," Forbes said.

"Local governments in the province should now embark on a serious program that would seriously address their waste problem based on back-to-basic approach," he added. Segregation of garbage is the key."

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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10 'Pentagon' gang members get death

By Agnes Donato

TEN FORMER Moro rebels who belong to the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang were sentenced yesterday to death for the abduction of three people in 1999.

Convicted by Quezon City Judge Jose Catral Mendoza to die by lethal injection were Tahir Alonto, the gang's leader, and gang members Rasul Engad, Mutalib Ismael, Arnel Abdullah Blaim, Mondot Masalon, Mario Masalon, Kamad Udasan, Jun Emba, Dario Adoy and Alex Pandita.

Alonto was reportedly killed with five of his men in an encounter between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and government forces last week, but military officials have yet to verify the report.

ARTIST'S sketch of Alonto based on the convict's photo

Alonto and his men were found guilty of kidnapping Vicente Cavalida Jr., a doctor, Eduardo Cavalida, an engineer, and Cheryl Pagales in Gen. Santos City on July 31, 1999.

Alonto, Ismael, Blaim and Masalon had earlier been arrested, but in November 2000, about 1,000 armed MILF rebels stormed the city jail where they were being kept and freed them along with about 70 other inmates.

They have remained at large since then.

In his 21-page decision, Judge Mendoza said: "There is no political or religious issue here; the matter is just plain banditry."

"This is about giving justice to the victims of the common crime of kidnapping and deterring others who may be similarly minded to commit the same heinous crime in the future," he said.

Court records showed that the three victims, along with Rose Suarez, Richard Cereles Sr. and two others, were on their way to inspect a mango plantation in Gen. Santos City on July 31, 1999 when they were abducted by Alonto and his men.

On the evening of the same day, however, Suarez and Cereles got separated from them. Pagales told the court that she heard two gunshots and they never saw Suarez and Cereles again.

Two days after, Alonto demanded a P15-million ransom from Dr. Cavalida in exchange for his group's release. This was brought down to P7 million after the doctor convinced Alonto that he could not afford the original amount.

Constantly guarded by about 10 armed men, the three hostages were moved from one place to another in the following days until they were rescued by the military on Aug. 16.

Mendoza said his decision to send the convicts to death row was "mandatory" and not necessarily out of belief in the effectivity of the death penalty as a crime deterrent.

The convicts were ordered to pay each of the victims P1 million in moral damages.

Alonto was also convicted of robbery and ordered to serve a maximum prison term of six years and one day.

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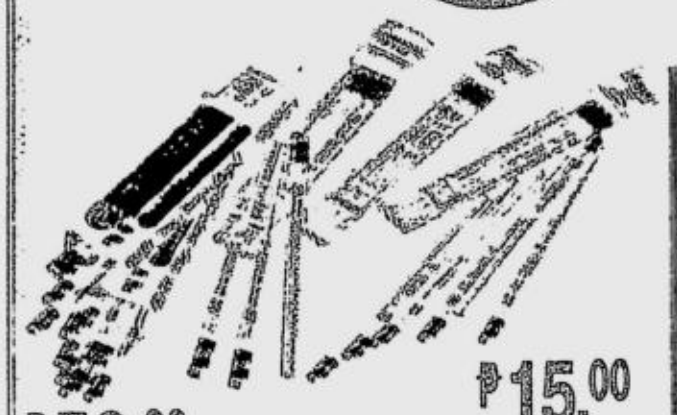

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Metro cops told: Take drug tests

By Alcuin Papa

ALL METRO Manila policemen were ordered yesterday to immediately undergo the mandatory drug tests or face dismissal.

National Capital Regional Police Office Chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco gave the warning to the 17,000 members of the five police districts in Metro Manila.

Velasco said the policemen must take the drug tests to set an example to the citizenry, as part of the government's drive against illegal drugs.

The other day, Velasco and other high ranking generals of the NCRPO submitted themselves to the drug tests.

Velasco noted that the mandatory drug tests for the Metro cops can serve to gain the trust and confidence of the public.

"Through the mandatory drug tests, we will not only determine if there are policemen who are hooked on drugs but also take the necessary actions to cleanse our ranks," Velasco said in a statement.

He added that policemen who refuse to undergo the tests and those who test positive for illegal drugs will face dismissal from the service.

The drug tests is in compliance with the orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina. The drug tests are also based on the new Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, or Republic Act 9165.

"The problem of illegal drugs has to stop as it threatens the populace particularly our youth," the NCRPO chief said.

Velasco said the drug tests will reveal policemen who are hooked on drugs and those engaged in the illegal drug trade.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 06
CITY Day
MardiGras
Honda World Show
Live Band

PBA drug test draws flak from medics

The Admiral's farewell tour in high gear A28

Sosa's bat under cloud A30

Mangubat goes for WBC title tonight A26

Costa pulls off another 5-setter A30

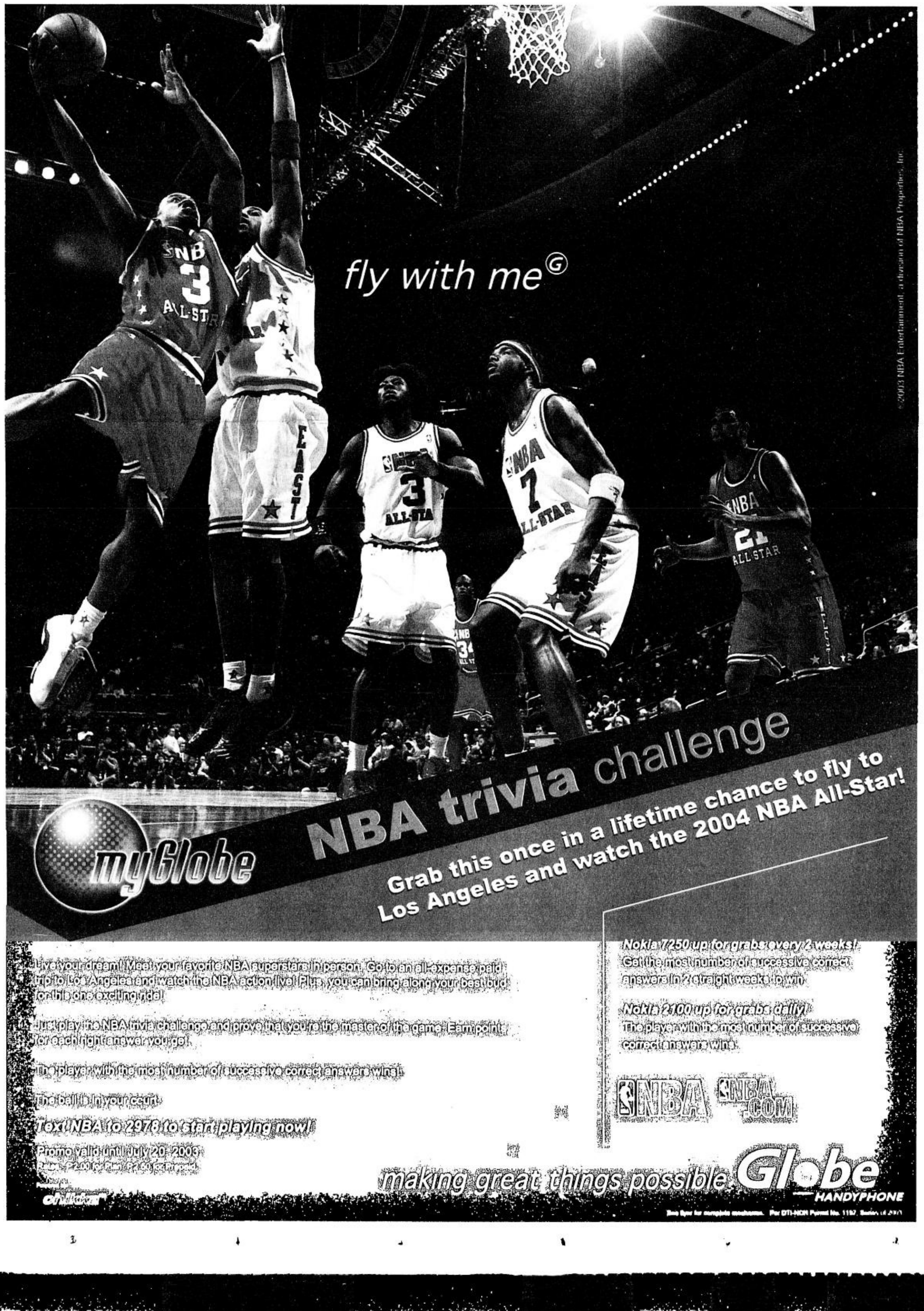
By June Navarro and Christine Avendaño

PLAYERS who tested positive for banned drugs did not necessarily ingest narcotic substances, medical experts explained yesterday as the PBA drug testing procedure came under fire.

The experts, who testified in yesterday's hearings in both house of Congress, maintained that supplements or medication taken by players prior to the urine check could make positive for prohibited drugs.

Dr. Rene Yat, a renowned expert on drug addiction cases, in assailing the PBA's drug

PBA/ A26



Mangubat fights Thai for WBC crown today

By Salven L. Lagumbay

THE Thai defending champion had a long, terrible time making the flyweight limit, Randy Mangubat of the Philippines weighed exactly 112-lb in one try.

Although Mangubat had lost his past two bouts against the Thai champ, the hard-hitting Filipino bet has promised a totally different ending when he challenges WBC flyweight king Pongsaklek Wongjongkam in an open-air arena at the Samila Bay in Thailand's Songkla Province today.

The crowd will be as hostile, the climate as cruel but Mangubat claimed he's in the best position to grab the title as he's in the finest form of his career.

"Bakbakan talaga ito. Walang urungan. Matira ang matibay sa amin," Mangubat told the Philippine Daily Inquirer prior to his departure for Thailand.

The explosive Pongsaklek, who took the flyweight crown via a first-round stoppage of Malcolm Tunacao in Pichit, Thailand in March 2001, registered 114.5 pounds during the yesterday's weigh-in and had to run and do calesthenics for nearly two hours before finally making the 112-pound limit.

If victorious, Mangubat will join three Filipinos who had won world flyweight titles against Thai champions.

Erbito Salavarria, Mangubat's trainer, dethroned Thai boxing legend Chartchai Chionoi on Dec. 7, 1970; Manny Pacquiao beat Chatchai Sasakul in December 1998; while Malcolm Tuñacao took the crown from Medgoen 3k Battery by knockout in May 2000.

Wongjongkam, a baby-faced warrior with blinding speed and sensational power in both fists, totes a record of 46 wins (26 KOs) against 2 losses.

A fast-starting dynamo, Pongsaklek has been undefeated since 1996.

The 27-year-old Mangubat, a native of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, holder of the WBC International title and ranked WBC No. 10, has a 31-17-11 win-loss-draw record, with 14 wins coming by knockout.

Today's championship in Songkla, some 1,000 kms. from Bangkok, will be the third meeting between the main protagonists with Wongjongkam outpointing Mangubat in 1996 and 1999.

However, Mangubat was quick to point out that the Thai champ's first victory over him was a fluke; while in the second meeting, Mangubat claimed he was on the verge of winning before organizers decided to cut short the number of rounds to be contested.

Today's fight, which will be promoted by the Diamond Boxing Promotion of Virat Vachiraratanawongse, will be aired by RPN-9 tomorrow, starting at 9 PM. The telecast has been dubbed "Vengeance in Thailand."

Judges for title tiff are Roy O'Valle, Korea's Jaebong Kim, and New York's Fred Ucci, while the fight supervisor is Rex Walker. Mangubat will be assisted at ringside by chief second Erbito Salavarria, while his manager Yuki Murayama will act as cutman. Tokyo's Nobuhiro Uema will be the assistant second.

-- With a report from Rey Danseco

MANGUBAT

PBA drug test ...

From page A25

testing procedure, said the alleged drug offenders should be informed immediately and the information should not be made public.

"Confidentiality is a must in this situation. If the cases are made public, chances are the patients will go astray and lose their esteemed place in society," Yat said.

He said that certain drugs, which could be bought over-the-counter, could also yield a positive result, among them cough and cold medicines.

Yat said that methamphetamine, which is a derivative of amphetamine, is also available on diet pills, particularly the famous Bangkok pills that could be purchased widely in Metro Manila, particularly in Chinatown.

"If these pills are taken, chances are they will turn out to be positive," said Yat before the Senate Committee on Games Amusements and Sports led by Senators Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski.

In the House of Representatives, Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, explained that many innocent looking medication taken by athletes could yield positive results during drug testing.

"Of the 140 samples tested by the Fiba Medical Council, 31 percent contained substances like ephedrine that was not in the label," Canlas, president of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, explained in the congressional hearing on the PBA drug scandal.

"This leads me to believe that some if not all of the players punished by the PBA got banned due to the medication or supplements they had taken, not because they are habitual drug users," Canlas said.

Canlas called these unfortunate players incidental users who got nutritional supplements or other medicines from the open market.

Dr. Bernard Regalado, a physician accredited by the Dangerous Drugs Board, attacked the PBA's six-month rehabilitation requirement on the players who failed the mandatory drug tests.

He said the league should review the personal profile, circumstances involved and medical history of the player if he is indeed a habitual user before subjecting him to a rehab.

"It is also important to ask a player what medication did he take or he's taking, especially in the last 10 days or two weeks before undergoing a drug test," said Regalado.

In the congressional probe, solons even offered to try a nasal drug and then undergo drug testing to find out for themselves the accuracy of the drive being conducted on PBA players.

A hair test was likewise suggested during yesterday's joint hearing by the House committees on sports and dangerous drugs.

The concerned PBA players strongly denied they had a drug habit while the Department of Health and the Philippine National Police crime laboratory attested to the 99 percent accuracy of their drug tests as well as the integrity of the process of collecting the urine samples used for testing.

Representatives Monico Puentevella and Antonio Cuenco Jr., who chair respectively the House committees on dangerous drugs as well as sports and games, said they were willing to take the nasal drug Rhinopron, a cold relief drug, themselves.

This was, they said, in order to find out whether they would test positive in the two tests conducted by the DOH for confirming the presence of either marijuana or methampethamine in the system of a person.

Zandro Limpot of Barangay Ginebra has blamed the nasal drug for his testing positive last May 19.

Cuenco said the committees would recommend a second drug test this time done by a private company in Manila where hair samples can be taken from the players.

In this kind of testing, Cuenco said laboratory analysts would be able to detect whether a person was into drug use because his hair can retain traces of any illegal substance for three months.

This was unlike the tests done using urine samples where Cuenco said DOH experts said that a person who took marijuana or methampethamine was likely to excrete the illegal drug substance within five to seven days of use.

That was why Dr. Socorro Yanes of the DOH laboratories division and head of the National Referrals Laboratory, said that any re-tests to be conducted on the players should still have to use the same urine samples used on the first two tests.

In her testimony, Yanes said the department was responsible for collecting urine samples and for conducting an initial testing of the samples. If the samples turn out positive in the initial screening, they are turned over to the PNP Crime Lab which in turn test the samples via the use of a "superior" and "gold" equipment called the Gaschromatography Mass spectroscopy (GCMS).

"Using this machine, it can isolate the substance and pinpoint accurately what it is," Yanes told the congressmen. The equipment detects the presence of marijuana and methampetamine.

Yanes said that cough and cold remedies contain clusters from the family of amines but the GCMS would eliminate their presence and zero in on the illegal substance.

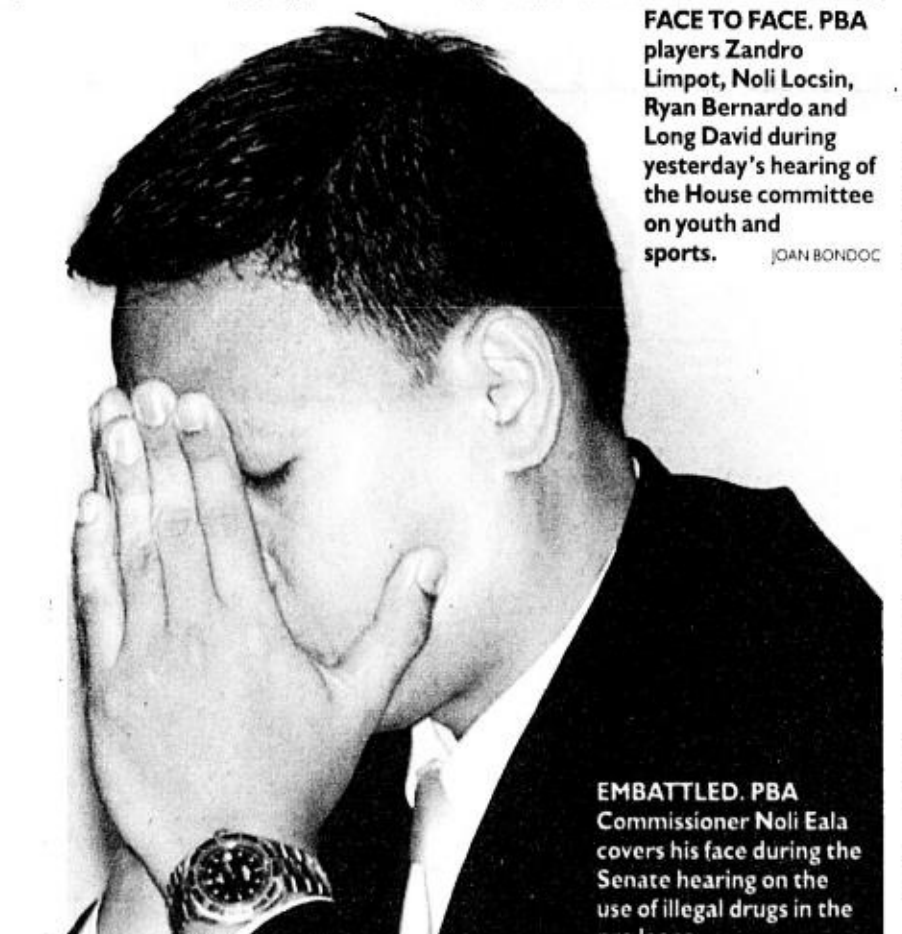
She also vouched for the integrity of the collection of the samples by the DOH analysts and stressed that the PBA players themselves sign the bottles containing their samples in full view of PBA and DOH representatives.

Professing their innocence yesterday were Limpot, Ginebra's Alex Crisano, Davon Harp of Red Bull, Talk and Text's Long David, Norman Gonzales and Noli Locsin, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx, and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Pena.

All of the players said that they don't understand why they tested positive because they said they have never used drugs and that their conscience was clean.

Puentevella urged PBA Commissioner Noli Eala not to divulge the identities of the players who tested positive right after the results of their drug tests come in. He said this was because the players had 15 days to appeal and take a re-test.

But Eala said that his office never deviates from PBA rules and that even before the PBA board was to deliberate on the results of the first drug test results of players who were tested, news broke out identifying them.



FACE TO FACE. PBA players Zandro Limpot, Noli Locsin, Ryan Bernardo and Long David during yesterday's hearing of the House committee on youth and sports. JOAN BONDOC

EMBATTLED. PBA Commissioner Noli Eala covers his face during the Senate hearing on the use of illegal drugs in the pro leage.

JESS YUSON

FedEx takes on SLR; Beermen face Aces

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5 p.m.--FedEx vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.--Alaska vs San Miguel Beer

THEY joined forces in leading the Governors' selection to victory during the recent All-Star Game.

Now, Vergel Meneses and Kenneth Duremdes go at it as bitter rivals again when Federal Express and Sta. Lucia Realty clash in the quarterfinals of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup today at the Philsports Arena.

FedEx and Sta. Lucia collide at 5 p.m. with San Miguel Beer facing Alaska at 7:30 p.m. to complete the doubleheader pitting all four qualifiers from Group A.

Meneses, capping a performance that gave him a fourth All-Star MVP trophy,issued the pass that Duremdes converted to lift the Governors' Selection past the highly favored Commissioner's group last Sunday.

This time, Meneses and Duremdes are expected to lead their respective teams as they go for a win so crucial under the single round robin format.

"The quarterfinals is a race. You get two straight victories and you're somehow assured of making it to the semifinals," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren, who called the shots for the Governors' selection in the All-Star Game.

After finishing the eliminations a game behind leader San Miguel Beer, the Express hope to keep their momentum behind Yancy De Ocampo, Renren Ritualo, Wynne Arboleda, John Ferriols, Jerry Codinera, Roger Yap and Meneses.

For Sta. Lucia to win, the scoring triumvirate of the Realtors--Duremdes, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino--should get ample support from their teammates.

Former MVP Benjie Paras will return to action for San Miguel Beer as last-minute replacement for Dorian Pena, who is under indefinite suspension like Ryan Bernardo of FedEx for testing positive for drugs.

The Beermen also hope to get a superb game from Nic Belasco with Danny Ildefonso hurting after straining his ankle during the All-Star game.

With Pena out, Alaska enjoys tremendous edge in the shaded area through Ali Peek, Don Allado, EJ Feihl and Migs Noble.

If the Beermen survive the quarterfinals, they will have Danny Seigle as reinforcement in the semifinals. ***June Navarro.***

Anything but gloomy for Hapee in finals

GAMES TOMORROW
(Quezon Convention Center)
2 p.m.--Montaña vs John O (for 3rd)
4 p.m.--Hapee vs Viva (championship, best-of-five)

HAPEE Toothpaste has beaten Viva Mineral Water four times in four meetings and chances are there will be no breaking this trend when they dispute the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup championship starting tomorrow at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

Viva coach Koy Banal, a devout Christian, even likens the title series to a battle between David and Goliath.

"The David-Goliath story is very motivating. The odds are against us but our faith in God will help us conquer," said Banal.

While the Cecilio Pedro-owned franchise is the overwhelming favorite, Hapee coach Junel Baculi isn't taking any chances.

"It's back to square one," said Baculi, adding he is wary of Viva's young, determined players.

Aside from his fearsome starting unit, Baculi also boasts of a deep bench. Rich Alvarez, Peter Simon, Allan Salangsang, Wesley Gonzales and Ryan Dy are expected ot deliver the goods for the Sparklers.

On the other hand, Banal said making the finals is already an achievement for the Water Force, who are using this tournament as preparation for the coming UAAP wars.

Composed mostly of players from Far Eastern University, Viva wasn't given a big chance of upstaging its more experienced rivals at the start.

But Banal's coaching magic and the boundless energy displayed by the Water Force sparked Viva's amazing run in the semis.

Dennis Miranda, Mark Isip, Joel Co, Jason Misolas, Warren Ybañez and Gerard Jones are Viva's key players in the finals. ***Dennis Eroa***

Sunkist PBL Unity Cup

21 bets picked to boxing pool

By Dennis U. Eroa

TWENTY-ONE fighters, including seven female boxers who shone in the recent National Open amateur boxing championships held at Puerto Princesa City, were named candidates to the national pool now training in Baguio City.

Five of the candidates represent the Palawan Amateur Boxing Association (PABA) and four banner the capital city of Puerto Princesa.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, stressed that the selection was based primarily on the promise shown by the newcomers during the week-long slugfest which attracted up-and-coming pugs all over the country.

Philippine Army dethroned defending overall champion Navy in the team race.

"The national coaching staff headed by Gregorio Caliwan did not focus simply on the result of the competition but on the traits the boxers displayed which could be developed for international competition with proper training and exposure," Lopez explained.

He added the ABAP decided on a big number of candidates because some hopefuls may not agree to train in Baguio.

"Obviously, some will beg off or will not be allowed by their backers to join the Baguio training camp," said Lopez.

Pinweight Josie Gabuco, the tournament's best female boxer, and teammate Gretchen Abaniel, head the list of PABA boxers recommended to join the pool. The others are light-flyweights Roy Briones and Christopher Fernandez, bantamweights Judy Bisabella and Gideon Nazareno, and welterweights Joemarie Manalo, Ronnie Masicapo and David Dalope.

The other candidates are (women) lightflyweight Janice Gernale, flyweight Jennifer PeKeng, lightflyweight Ronijen Sufla and Mary Grace Tizon and pinweight Rodalla Flores, (men) lightweight Raul Alcid, middleweight Markjoy Tagbe, lightwelterweight Neil Postolero, lightweight Caesar Amonsot and Reomer dela China, and bantamweight Anthony Marcial and flyweight Arestio Gorra.

At present, there are 48 members, including 12 women, who are in the training pool and get monthly allowances ranging from P4,000-P8,000, free board and lodging and vitamins from sponsor Revicon.

Caliwan said they would evaluate the performances of more than half of the members of the pool to decide their possible replacements from the incoming batch.

Who is Kidd kidding?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF only I could write a letter to Jason Kidd, I'd tell him right off:

"Kid us not, Jason. You didn't play your game today."

Sarcasm? Too blunt?

Read on.

"You were as disappointing to the Filipinos as MacArthur in the last war. Oh, well, wait. At least MacArthur returned, even when victory for the Filipinos was imminent. You never returned; you simply allowed your team to be blown to smithereens."

I can't think of any act as cowardly as Kidd's.

Jason Kidd, the leader, was Jason Kidd, the kidder.

He kidded us into believing he would play his best. With the game's first two shots registered under his name, he made us believe he was geared to fight.

No. He was given to a day of defeat, not defiance.

It's a given that San Antonio was the favorite. But the way Kidd behaved, the Spurs did not need Tim Duncan. Where Kidd goes, the Nets go.

As has been said all along, Kidd is headed West next season. Yesterday, that was but confirmed.

The ink to that agreement has yet to dry up but here was Kidd heated up already for a post-deal cocktail; make that margarita or tequila?

Not only had Kidd's mind drifted majestically to San Antonio. It would appear yesterday that his heart had left New Jersey the night the Nets ousted the Detroit Pistons.

Who said the business at hand is yet to begin? To Kidd, there's no more unfinished business. Bye, New Jersey. Hello, San Antonio.

Could be that there was a mix-up?

Call the utility boy. Why did he not give Kidd his real jersey? White was for San Antonio yesterday, right?

Which brings me to the question: Does a superstar like Kidd have honor at all?

He allowed himself to be humbled by Tony Parker, 21, and next walked away from a scene of gore and grime–smiling.

If this were boxing, we'd be seeing the champ sprawled on the canvass, knocked out by a pretentious rookie with an unpretentious 2-5, win-loss record.

If this were Wimbledon, we'd be seeing a 16-year-old upstart hogging the spotlight after dispatching all the legend of the defending champion.

Against Kidd, Parker couldn't possibly do that.

Before this night, Kidd, 32, was the NBA's undisputed floor leader. Tonight, he was the dealer: he dealt himself the biggest blow.

Never mind that Duncan fired 32 points and grabbed 20 rebounds. He was always expected to hit double-double digits for San Antonio.

Never mind that San Antonio won it, 101-89, giving the Spurs a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals.

What I mind is, Kidd giving us kid stuff at this time when New Jersey needs much of his non-juvenile behavior.

You say this is just Game One? Long way to go from here? Who you kidding, fellas? The journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step.

Kidd's first step was to fire the game's first two baskets for a 4-0 opening blast for New Jersey. First blood, huh? Alas, the blast didn't last because Kidd refused to lust for shots after that.

I do not expect much from New Jersey. If it wins, then David isn't a myth, Goliath a real big fake. San Antonio will most probably resurface as a champion, after doing it the first time in 1999.

But for Chrissakes, let's see what the East has to offer before we call it a series. Even the rich always pays good money for the honey, baby.

Bring in the fun first before we unfurl the banners, drop the balloons, change jerseys. Is New Jersey about to lose jersey No. 5? Or has it lost its very wearer even before yesterday's Game One has started?

Kidd has the answer to all that. But if Kidd has become the new kid on the block on the Western front, then start playing Taps.

***

FASTBREAK. Ed Picson **extends his gratitude to Ed Mapa and Bobby Kanapi of Pilipinas Shell and Andy Jao and Yeng Guiao of Batang Red Bull for their support in the Fil-Invest 2 golf event firing off at 12 noon today at Veterans...My gratitude goes to Dr. Raul Sabado of Dagupan City for attending to my Kuya Ony, whose leg the good doctor had operated on with diligence coupled with a deep sense of professional integrity. Also to Teddy Cruz, the well-loved congressman of yore, for standing by my brother in his most painful moments after he got hit by a car. I owe you one, Mr. Congressman.**

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Miwa's Treasure 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Zaragoza Real
Race 2--1. Tatler Cover 2. Sacred Hall 3. Apple Splash
Race 3--1. Petro Dollar 2. Queen Matawe 3. Time and Again 4. Espirikitik/Palachik
Race 4--1. Man of the Hour 2. Musikero 3. Scene Stealer 4. Bold Lucky
Race 5--1. Gentleman's Lady 2. Al's Princess 3. Rugged Dancer 4. Currency
Race 6--1. Ocean Wings 2. Voice of Destiny 3. You and Me
Race 7--1. Sandata 2. Capriole 3. Hurricane Doding 4. Super Cool 5. Glamour Girl
Race 8--1. Precious Time 2. Magnicolo 3. Touch of Luck 4. Profit Margin 5. Legitimo
Race 9--1. Golden Moment 2. Salt Lake City 3. Bakasan 4. Vhingget 5. Sham Sham

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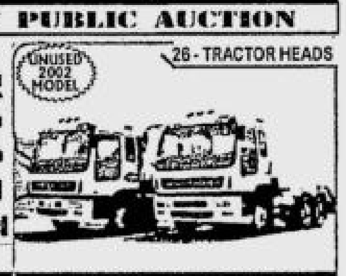

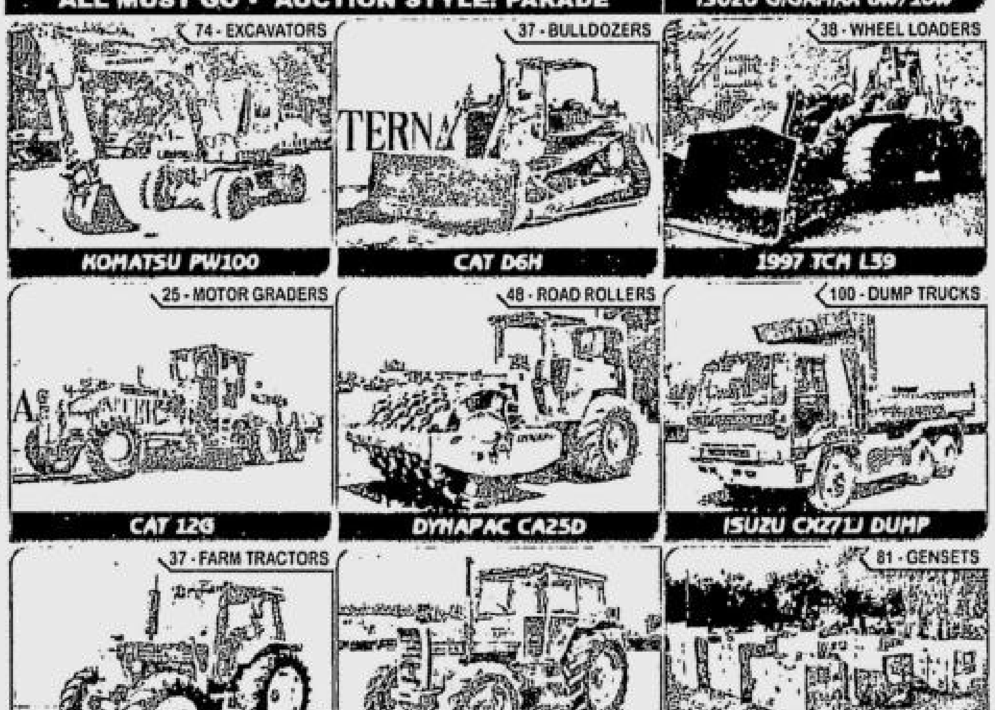

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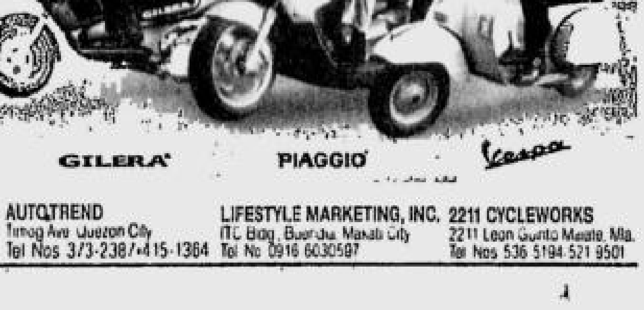

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NBA FINALS: GAME 1

The Admiral's farewell tour in high gear

SAN ANTONIO—Needing four victories to go out as a champion, David Robinson did a good job in helping the San Antonio Spurs get the first one by playing his best game of the postseason in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday.

Robinson kicked his low-key farewell tour into high gear by shooting 6-of-8 and scoring 14 points to go with six rebounds and four blocks as the Spurs beat the New Jersey Nets 101-89.

"When Dave plays like that, we are so much tougher to beat," said Tim Duncan, who led San Antonio with 32 points, 20 rebounds, seven blocks and six assists. "He was incredible tonight. He was all over the place. He really had some pop in his legs."

Robinson credited a five-day layoff and water treatments on his creaky back for his throwback performance. It also helped that the Nets went with a big lineup, which meant more minutes—27, more than he played in the six-game Western Conference finals against Dallas' small lineup.

"He realizes this is his last series, and I thought his effort was really superior, more than it has been in a while," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He gave us everything that his body will give us. It was really important to us. It will continue to be, if he can continue to play like he did tonight."

After winning a ceremonial pregame tipoff over Jason Kidd, Robinson got fans on their feet with an early dunk, then scored again on a putback of a rebound.

During a second-quarter stretch, Robinson had another dunk off a nice give-and-go with Tony Parker. He blocked Kenyon Martin on the other end, then rebounded his own missed dunk and turned it into a three-point play that gave the Spurs just their second lead of the game.

When San Antonio broke things open in the third quarter, Robinson was part of it with a jumper and a great block on Kidd that turned into a 3-pointer by Bruce Bowen.

Robinson's defensive presence was partly why the Nets shot just 37 percent. He stood tall in the paint, his arms outstretched, and forced New Jersey to go over or around him.

"He's phenomenal," said his backup, Malik Rose. "Everything we do in our team defense starts with David. He's our anchor. Even if he doesn't block a shot, he changes them."

Robinson was so good that he had to answer questions about whether this is really goodbye, or would he consider returning next season.

"No, no," he said, grinning. "I pretty much made up my mind. All the pieces have come together to confirm in my heart this was the right way to do it."

Part of the right way was not making a big fuss about his exit. Unlike Michael Jordan, who was treated like royalty everywhere he went this season, Robinson got little more than a pat on the back on his final visit across the NBA even though he also was part of the 1992 US Olympic Dream Team and was named one of the 50 greatest players in league history.

"I thought it was perfect," he said.

Well, it was almost perfect. Absolute perfection would be going out with a second title to go with the one he won in 1999.

"To win this championship would be phenomenal because it's what I've been playing for. It's the only thing I want," he said. "All the individual stuff doesn't matter to me. All that matters is this experience, this journey as a team."

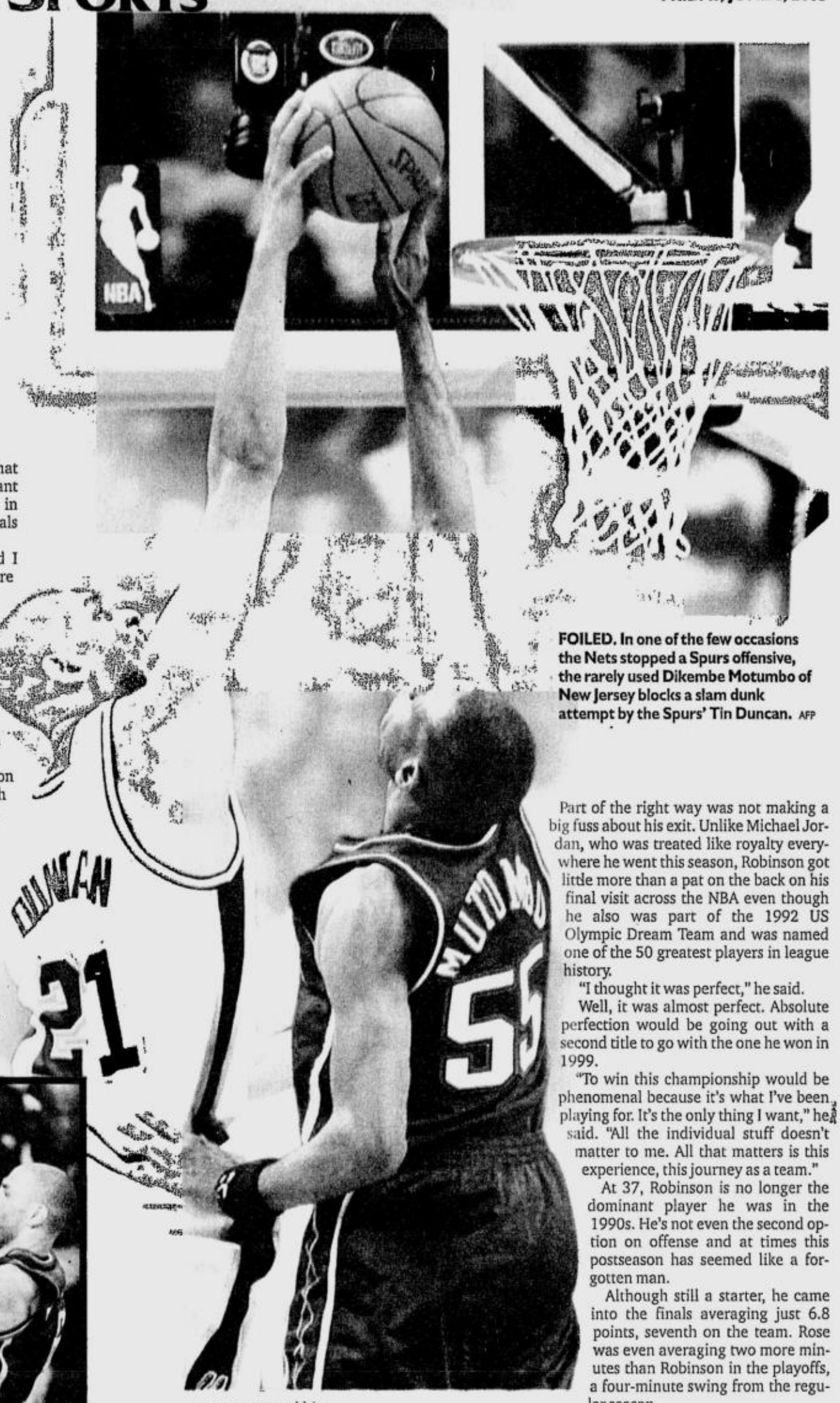
At 37, Robinson is no longer the dominant player he was in the 1990s. He's not even the second option on offense and at times this postseason has seemed like a forgotten man.

Although still a starter, he came into the finals averaging just 6.8 points, seventh on the team. Rose was even averaging two more minutes than Robinson in the playoffs, a four-minute swing from the regular season.

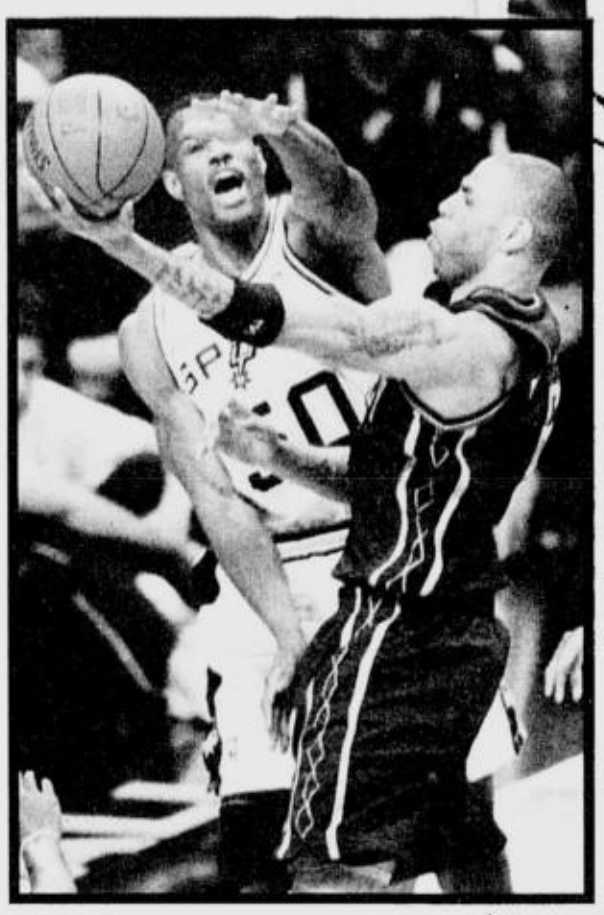
Spurs fans don't care. To them, he's still "5-0," the most decorated player in team history and one of the classiest acts in all of pro sports. In the pregame introductions, he was the last player called out, not Duncan, and he got the loudest ovation.

If he keeps playing this way, he might not have much longer to keep hearing the cheers. Three more wins, and Robinson's career will be over—and he'll go out as a winner.

"I've got (up to) six games left," he said. "I'm going to have some fun." *AP*



FOILED. In one of the few occasions the Nets stopped a Spurs offensive, the rarely used Dikembe Motumbo of New Jersey blocks a slam dunk attempt by the Spurs' Tin Duncan. AFP



BRAVE TRY. Kenyon Martin of the New Jersey Nets drives past David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs. AFP

NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 1, Nets 0

Game 1: San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2 at San Antonio (June 7, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 3 at New Jersey (June 9, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (June 12, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8:30 a.m.)

*IF NECESSARY
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL I NO. 013

Drug test

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

❑ True / ❑ False: An Olympic athlete can't drink too much coffee because it contains caffeine, and too much caffeine will get you banned from the Olympics.

2 > 5 Pts.

Which running sensation was stripped of the 100-meter gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics after testing positive for stanozolol, a prohibited steroid?

❑ Ben Johnson (Canada)
❑ Carl Lewis (USA)

3 > 7 Pts.

What brain chemical is believed to be responsible for the drug-free "natural high" that long-distance runners experience?

❑ Pheromone
❑ Adrenaline
❑ Endorphin

4 > 10 Pts.

Which popular drug has the chemical name methylene-dioxy-meth-amphetamine or MDMA?

❑ Shabu
❑ Marijuana
❑ Ecstasy

5 > 20 Pts.

When he used the supplement androstenedione in setting an amazing record in 1998, he received no penalty, even though the human body rapidly converts this compound to testosterone, which builds muscle mass. Who's this famous athlete?

❑ Naim Suleymanoglu (weightlifting)
❑ Maurice Greene (track sprint)
❑ Ian Thorpe (swimming)
❑ Mark McGwire (baseball)

6 > 25 Pts.

The first drug tests in Olympic history took place in which Games?

❑ 1960 Rome
❑ 1964 Tokyo
❑ 1968 Mexico
❑ 1972 Munich

7 > 30 Pts.

Name the Filipino boxer who was stripped of his world flyweight crown in 1971 for allegedly drinking "sugared water" during his title bout with Betulio Gonzales of Venezuela.

ANSWERS/ A31

Streak is over for struggling Nets

SAN ANTONIO—Jason Kidd hit 4 of 17 shots and scored 10 points in his second-worst performance of the playoffs as the New Jersey Nets saw their 10-game postseason winning streak snapped in a 101-89 loss Wednesday to the San Antonio Spurs in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

It was the Nets' fifth straight loss in the NBA Finals. They lost all four to the Lakers last year.

"We really didn't do a lot of things we talked about doing to be honest with you," Nets coach Byron Scott said.

The Nets never got their pressure defense going, they didn't run and they didn't show up for the third quarter, when the Spurs got 13 points, five rebounds and three assists from Tim Duncan to take a 74-59 lead.

"We lost, bottom line," said Kenyon Martin, who had 21 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out trying to guard Duncan. "He had a good game. So we have to bounce back from it."

Kidd had a horrible game in his first action since spraining his right ankle in Game 4 of the sweep of Detroit in the Eastern Conference finals.

After hitting two jumpers in a game-opening six-point run that seemed to indicate the Nets were ready to continue their roll, very little fell for Kidd.

"We didn't do anything special," Spurs point guard Tony Parker said. "It was just a bad night for him. He missed a lot of wide open shots. I know he is going to come back strong the next game and he's going to make a lot of shots."

Kidd's only other baskets were a fastbreak layup in the third quarter and a late 3-pointer. He didn't look good on his other 13 misses, including a 3-point airball when the Spurs had an 11-3 spurt to close the third quarter.

"It was a tough night for him," said forward Richard Jefferson, who added 15 points in 36 minutes. "Jason is a competitor. Everyone has one of those kinds of nights.

Kidd added 10 assists and eight rebounds, but the Nets' offense never looked as crisp as it had in the first three rounds of the playoffs.

Kidd did not seem upset, noting the teams were tied at halftime.

"In the second half we couldn't put the ball in the basket," Kidd said. "You've got to give them a lot of credit. Their defense is extremely tough and so you have to make some adjustment. Hopefully, they are the right adjustments."

The 101 points is tied for the most the Nets have given up in a regulation loss, and was only the fifth time in 15 postseason games this year that an opponent has broken the century mark.

The Nets went 33-for-89 from the field (37.1 percent). They only outscored the Spurs 17-11 on the fastbreak and they were outscored 48-34 in the paint.

"Ten days is too long," Scott said. "That's how we felt before the series started. Now we have a game under our belts. We'll go to work tomorrow, work on some things and be ready for Friday."

If the Nets were looking for some good news, Rodney Rogers and Dikembe Mutombo provided it.

Rogers and Mutombo, who didn't play in the conference finals, gave the Nets some excellent minutes in the first half when Martin, Jason Collins and Aaron Williams got in foul trouble early.

Rogers had nine of his 11 points in the half and Mutombo provided energy and defense, blocking a Tim Duncan dunk attempt and then diving to the floor to grab the loose ball. *AP*

DAVID VS. GOLIATH. Jason Kidd is no Goliath to David Robinson as they battle for control of the ball in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. Robinson turned in a vintage performance to power the Spurs past the Nets. AFP

Dr. J has prescription for the Nets: Keep Kidd

SAN ANTONIO--It took the New Jersey Nets more than a quarter-century to reach the National Basketball Association Finals after letting Julius Erving get away when they joined the league in 1976.

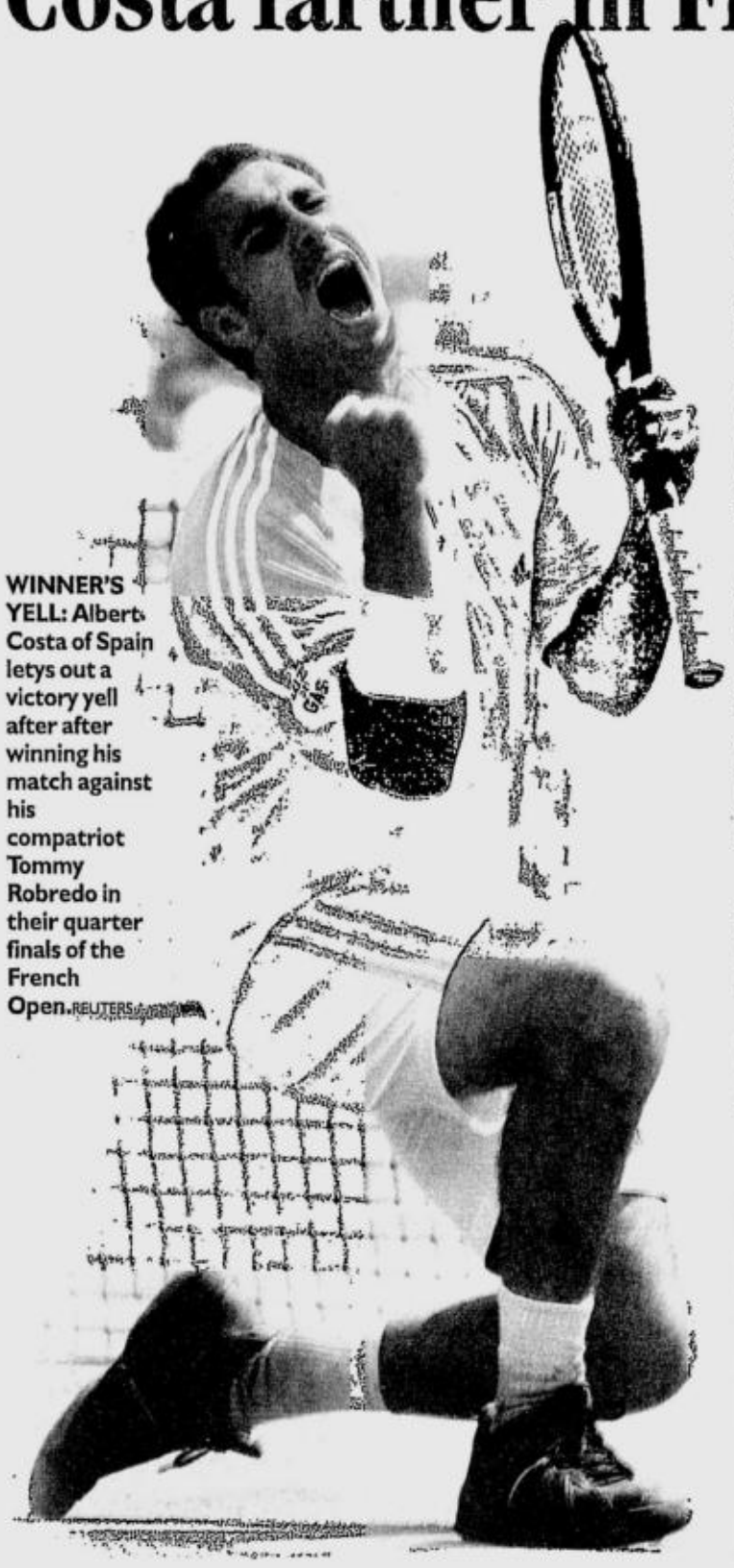
Now "Doctor J" has a prescription to keep the Nets among the NBA's elite — do everything they can to keep soon-to-be free agent Jason Kidd.

"You can't let great talent go and hope to replace it," Erving said here Wednesday before game one of the NBA Finals. "If you've got a great talent in your organization you've got to find a way to keep him whatever the sacrifice.

"If you have a leader on your team who doesn't take a night off, you are willing to go the distance for him. Jason is that type of guy. Those guys will follow him. They trust him and that's special." Kidd, an All-Star guard, has led the Nets to the NBA Finals for the second year in a row. They were swept by the Los Angeles Lakers last year but hope to finally capture an NBA crown by beating San Antonio in this year's final.

"For them to validate their existence may be a little bit of poetic justice," Erving said. "It will go a long way in terms of truly gaining the respect they probably already deserve." Erving and former San Antonio star George "Iceman" Gervin took part in a ceremonial opening tip to commemerate the first NBA Final that matches two former American Basketball Association clubs. *AFP*

Another big comeback takes Costa farther in French Open



WINNER'S YELL: Albert Costa of Spain letys out a victory yell after after winning his match against his compatriot Tommy Robredo in their quarter finals of the French Open. REUTERS

PARIS — Albert Costa was as cool as his rackets in the courtside fridge after double-faulting to hand Tommy Robredo a two-set lead in the French Open quarterfinals.

Hey, the defending champion had the kid right where he wanted him.

Just 1 1/2 weeks ago, Costa's 10-year record didn't include a single comeback from such a deficit. Now he does it routinely.

With a key midmatch strategy shift, Costa overcame fellow Spaniard Robredo 2-6, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 Wednesday, making him the second player to win three matches at a Grand Slam tournament after trailing 2-0 in sets. He's also the first player in at least 35 years to win four five-setters during a French Open.

"Every day I surprise myself," Costa said. "I promise it's not a strategy. When I am two sets down, I still think I can win the match. I don't know why."

His semifinal opponent Friday will be a friend, countryman, and the man he beat in the 2002 final: Juan Carlos Ferrero. The third-seeded Ferrero wasted five match points before eliminating No. 19 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4. The other semifinal is Guillermo Coria of Argentina vs. Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands.

Helped by Gonzalez's 15 double-faults, Ferrero joined Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander, Ivan Lendl and Jim Courier as the only men to reach the French Open semifinals four consecutive years.

The women's semifinals are Thursday, with Serena Williams facing Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne, and Kim Clijsters of Belgium playing Nadia Petrova of Russia. Williams is bidding for a fifth straight major title.

Of the final four men, only Costa owns a major championship — and last year's French Open was his lone title in the past 88 tournaments. He came to Paris 14-10 this season, having won more than two matches at just one event.

Costa "found his confidence here," Ferrero said. "But physically, I'm not sure he'll be that fresh, because nobody can be after playing that many sets."

The tally: 23 sets and 227 games totaling 18 hours, 32 minutes.

Costa rallied from two sets down against Sergio Roitman in the first round and Nicolas Lapentti in the third, and also went five sets against Radek Stepanek. The only other player with this many such comebacks at a major was Nicolas Escude at the 1998 Australian Open.

EYE ON THE BALL. Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero eyes the ball in his quarter-final match against Chile's Fernando Gonzalez. Ferrero won. AP

"It's worse when you've never won, because you are very anxious. Sometimes you can do something strange on the court and lose your mind a little bit," he said. "Now when I'm on the court, I think: 'Well, I still won once, so don't feel pressure, don't get nervous, don't get anxious.'"

Robredo, 21, eliminated two Grand Slam champions en route to his first major quarterfinal: Lleyton Hewitt and Gustavo Kuerten. He appeared poised to make it three Wednesday, lacing lines with groundstroke winners for two sets.

And then Costa altered the match's complexion.

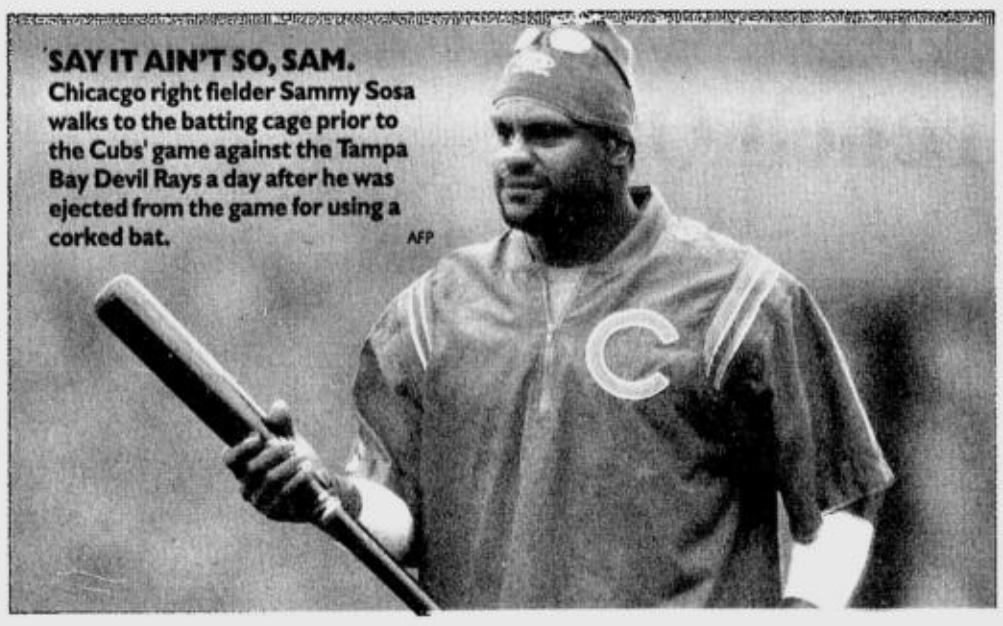
He stopped swatting strokes from 2 meters (6 feet) behind the baseline and began pushing forward.

"He saw that I was changing my tactics. He began to doubt," said Costa, seeded ninth. "Then I just managed to catch up with him, and that was it."

After going to net 16 times in the first two sets, he made 35 trips the rest of the way, winning the point on 25. Robredo, meanwhile, made 62 unforced errors over the final three sets, twice as many as he did building a lead.

"Anything can happen, no?" Robredo said. "What he did today — it's very difficult."

Nothing Robredo tried slowed Costa's comeback, including delay tactics: He changed shirts, got a leg massage from the trainer, and went back to his chair to switch rackets right after a changeover. *AP*



SAY IT AIN'T SO, SAM. Chicacgo right fielder Sammy Sosa walks to the batting cage prior to the Cubs' game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays a day after he was ejected from the game for using a corked bat. AFP

Sosa's corked bat part of baseball's cheating culture

NEW YORK—Sammy Sosa's corked bat is only the latest chapter of chicanery in baseball, a sport filled with petty larcenies, grand thefts and clever cheating.

In baseball, it's legal to steal bases but not quite legit to steal signs, though teams do it all the time.

Over the years, bats have been corked, filled with rubber, and hammered with nails to give them extra clout. Pitchers have thrown spitters, greased balls with petroleum jelly, scuffed them with emery boards and rubbed them on their belt buckles to give them funny twists. Managers have stooped to giving their pitchers refrigerated balls to deaden them when the visiting team is up.

More than any other sport, baseball has tolerated and even celebrated cheating as part of the game for more than a century. As the title of one book on the subject suggests, "It Ain't Cheatin' If You Don't Get Caught."

Whether or not Sosa made an innocent mistake playing with a corked bat Tuesday night, he stepped over to the shady side of sports and stained a career that seemed destined to land him in the Hall of Fame. He may get there yet, even if skeptics will always wonder if some of his 505 home runs so far have come with the help of funny bats.

Only in America, or maybe only in Chicago, would Sosa get a standing ovation a day after he shattered his corked bat and his reputation. *AP*

Sammy Sosa's 76 other bats cleared

CHICAGO — No cork or other foreign material was found in any of the 76 bats confiscated from Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa's locker and X-rayed by baseball officials.

The bats were taken from the Cubs' locker room during the game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Tuesday night. Cork was found in Sosa's bat when it shattered after he grounded out in the first inning of the Cubs' 3-2 victory.

"We believe the X-ray process was sufficient to determine the state of those bats, and we're very confident all of those bats were clean and had no foreign substances within them," Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office, said Wednesday.

"We're happy with that, and that is consistent with Sammy's explanation of the incident last night."

Alderson said security personnel took Sosa's bats "several innings" after the cork was discovered. Alderson said he was confident all of Sosa's bats were impounded.

There is a possibility that Sosa's bats in the Hall of Fame could be examined, Alderson added. The Hall has five of Sosa's bats, including the one he presented in mid-April, more than a week after he hit his 500th home run.

Sosa said he accidentally pulled out a bat he uses to put on home run displays for fans in batting practice, and swore that he's never done anything illegal. If he was trying to cheat, he said, why wouldn't he have tried to grab the bat before anyone saw it?

"I would have come back to the plate and picked up all the pieces, don't you think?" he said Wednesday. "I didn't pick it up. I went to the dugout. So you guys can see the difference."

But that doesn't mean he's off the hook.

Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, will decide what — if any — punishment Sosa will face. He's expected at Wrigley Field by Thursday morning to do interviews before returning to New York to make a decision.

Other players who've used corked bats have been suspended for up to 10 games, and Alderson said he thinks precedent will play a part in Watson's decision. Sosa can appeal any discipline imposed.

"I think it would be in everyone's best interest to conclude this as quickly as possible, and be able to have a decision that is timely," Alderson said. "On the other hand, there needs to be thorough investigation.

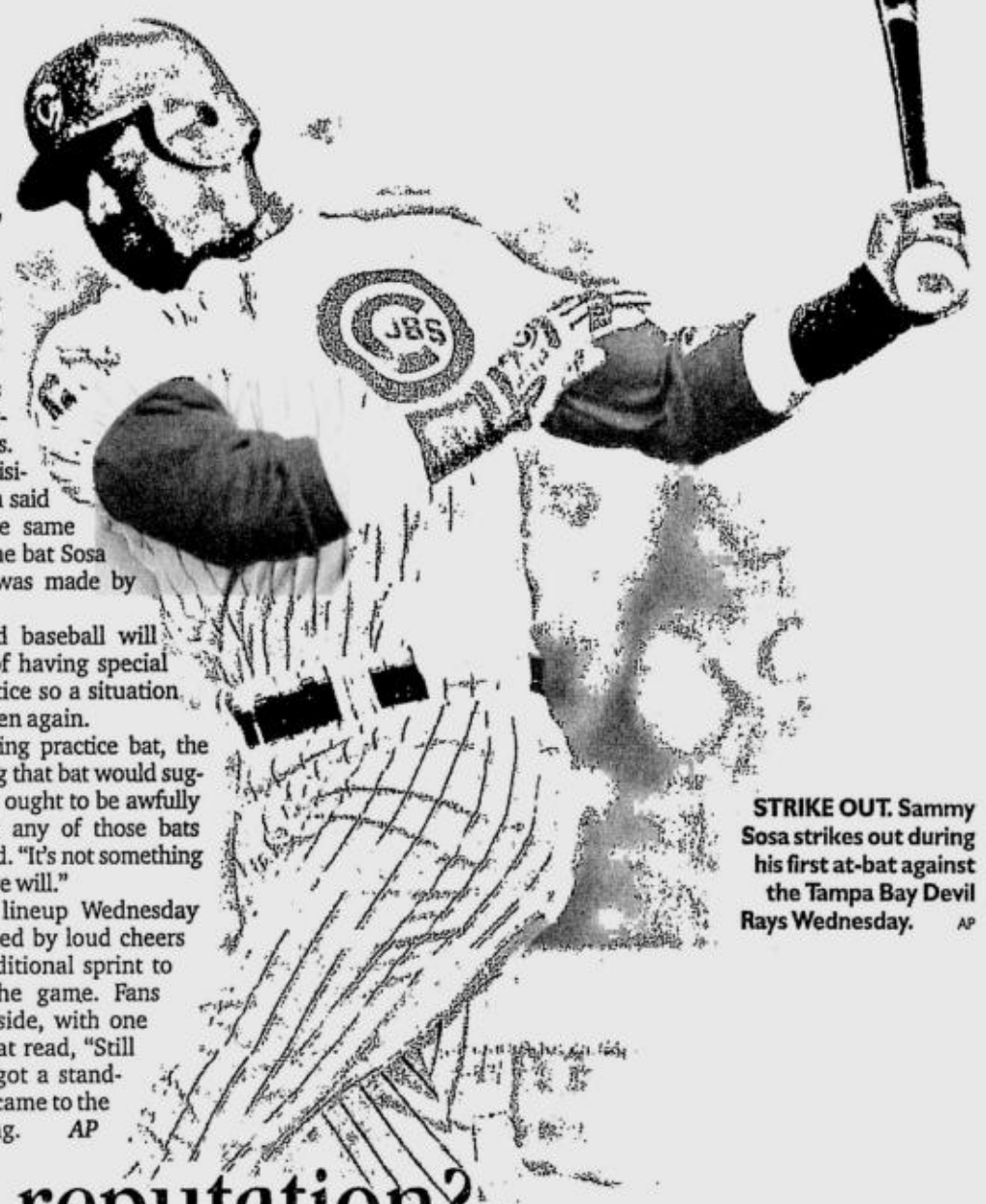
"As I said, Sammy has been very forthcoming, and I think we are all hopeful the investigation will corroborate what he has told us," Alderson said. "So far, there is no indication in anything we have seen that his explanation is not accurate."

Sosa uses bats made by three different manufacturers. While each brand is visibly different, Alderson said all bats made by the same maker look similar. The bat Sosa used Tuesday night was made by Tuffbat.

Alderson also said baseball will look into the issue of having special bats for batting practice so a situation like this doesn't happen again.

"If this was a batting practice bat, the possibility of confusing that bat would suggest that we probably ought to be awfully careful about having any of those bats around," Alderson said. "It's not something we've looked at, but we will."

Sosa was in the lineup Wednesday night, and was greeted by loud cheers when he did his traditional sprint to right field before the game. Fans were clearly on his side, with one holding up a sign that read, "Still loving Sammy." He got a standing ovation when he came to the plate in the first inning. *AP*



STRIKE OUT. Sammy Sosa strikes out during his first at-bat against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays Wednesday. AP

Will corked bat tarnish Sosa's reputation?

CHICAGO—With one mighty swing, Sammy Sosa shattered his bat and, quite possibly, his reputation.

Sosa has been baseball's quintessential power hitter the last five seasons, a lovable slugger with an infectious smile and a feel-good story. While Mark McGwire and Barry Bonds got the records, the Chicago Cubs' outfielder got most of the adulation.

But with a piece of cork clearly embedded just above the handle of his bat Tuesday night, his image as baseball's good guy was suddenly thrown into question. Though no cork or foreign substances turned up in tests Wednesday on the 76 bats confiscated from his locker, fans and other major leaguers can't help but wonder.

Has it all been a sham?

"That's why I'm here right now, to explain that that was a mistake," Sosa said after the game. "I just took the wrong bat. I don't need to use that. *AP*

Ducks' tale: It's win or die in New Jersey

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Talk about culture shock.

As the Anaheim Mighty Ducks traveled from the comfortable confines of the Pond to the inhospitable New Jersey swampland for Game 5 of the Stanley Cup finals, they found themselves as far away from Fantasyland as possible.

If the Ducks didn't know they weren't in friendly and oh-so-sunny Southern California any longer, they knew it when they pulled into their rain-drenched team hotel and found it swarming with fans — not of hockey, but of several rap stars performing at nearby Giants Stadium.

It is in this setting that the Ducks will try Thursday to do what would truly have been seen as a fantasy before the season started: close within a victory of winning the Stanley Cup.

Convinced that their twin 3-0 losses on New Jersey ice last week are nothing but a distant memory following two momentum-restoring overtime wins at home, the Ducks talked Wednesday of not wasting what could be a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

"You could coach or play in the league forever and you might not get back to here," said first-year coach Mike Babcock, who inherited a team that was coming off three straight last-place finishes.

But to win the Cup, the Ducks must win at least once at Continental Airlines Arena, where they are 0-8 since Feb. 11, 1996. They realize the task will be difficult, but that waiting until a Game 7, if it is necessary, likely would be far more difficult than winning Game 5.

"This our chance, and we can't fall down," defenseman Sandis Ozolinsh said.

"We're confident we can win some things here," goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere said. "Obviously, if we want to win the thing, we need to win one here."

The Ducks were the best road club in the playoffs, winning six of seven, before a dismal debut in New Jersey that suggested the series would end quickly. It didn't, but Devils coach Pat Burns thinks returning home will get the Devils back to the way they were playing a week ago.

There was one setback for the Devils on Wednesday. Center Joe Nieuwendyk, out since the Eastern Conference finals because of a hip-related injury, tried skating but quickly shut it down and almost certainly won't play in Game 5.

"There was no reason to push it," said Nieuwendyk, who didn't skate at full speed before leaving the ice. "We wanted to get a barometer of where it was, and the trainer indicated I should come off. It's frustrating, but it's something I have to deal with." *AP*

Funny Cide happy with Belmont post

NEW YORK--Funny Cide, the three-year-old gelding who has become a household name here in the past three weeks, drew the four post for Saturday's Belmont Stakes in his bid to enter racing's history books.

"I am happy with the post position," said his 65-year-old trainer Barclay Tagg after the draw at Belmont Park racetrack Wednesday morning.

And jockey Jose Santos, 42, added, "It is a great post. But it is a small field and anything can happen when the gates open." It will be Santos' 12th mount in the Belmont. He won on long shot Lemon Drop Kid in 1999 spoiling Charismatic's bid to complete the Triple Crown.

Charismatic finished third. Tagg will be saddling his first runner in the Belmont.

Funny Cide, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, is just one win away from becoming only the 12th horse and first gelding to win America's Triple Crown and the first since Steve Cauthen guided Affirmed to the treble in 1978.

Only five others - Dynever, Empire Maker, Scrimshaw, Supervisor and Ten Most Wanted - will run in the one-and-a-half-mile one million-dollars Belmont. If Funny Cide wins, it will take his career earnings to a record 7.48 million dollars for a gelding. This will include the five million-dollar bonus for taking the Triple Crown.

Empire Maker, who is expected to challenge Funny Cide in the closing stages of the race, drew the first post, with Supervisor at two, Scrimshaw three, Dynever five and Ten Most Wanted six.

Jerry Bailey, who will ride Empire Maker, said, "That's fine (the post position). It is not relevant (because of the small field) in this race." Asked about his role of being the spoiler if Empire Maker wins and wrecks Funny Cide's Triple Crown chances, Bailey said, "That's fine. Either you are favourite or the underdog. Even if you are the underdog it doesn't matter when the gates open." Asked who would win if Empire Maker and Funny Cide were in front with a furlong left, he said "my horse because of the pedigree." Ten Most Wanted trainer Wallace Dollase said his horse had recovered from a displaced vertebrae after the Derby and was "fine and in terrific shape and should run a good race." Peter Karches, a part owner of Dynever, was also happy with his three-year-old's post. "He is a lightly raced horse and from what he has shown us he will give them a good run on Saturday. It is going to be a fun race." Heavy rain fell overnight in New York, but this will not affect Funny Cide, said Tagg.

"I'm not thinking about the weather, what can I do about it?" he asked. *AFP*

Annika all set for show of her life

WILMINGTON, Delaware--After two weeks of being treated like a rock star, Annika Sorenstam is faced with the show of her life this week at the LPGA Championship, the second major of the women's golf season.

Sorenstam is a fortnight removed from her historic appearance at the PGA Tour's Colonial, which served as training ground for this week's event.

She hoped to gain the experience under a pressure-packed situation to play well this week.

It appeared to work last week as she cruised to her 44th career LPGA Tour victory at the Kellogg-Keebler Classic.

"There was so much that happened two weeks ago," said Sorenstam, who missed the cut at the Colonial. "It's just a memory - the people, the support. But most of all, I realize I really love what I do, and I think that's something I'll never forget.

"Now I'm done with that, and I'm ready to move forward. So I think mentally that's a relief and I can focus on what I do here and that's play well in majors." That's what her participation on the PGA Tour was all about, preparation for major tournaments. Although she has won 44 LPGA Tour events, she has only four majors, something that doesn't sit well with the best female golfer in the world.

Sorenstam has won only two major events since her second US Women's Open triumph in 1996. She does have eight other top-five finishes since, but she also has missed the cut four times - the only such occurences of her career.

"I've won 44 times, but I want some more majors, so that's my biggest challenge, to see if I can peak when I want to," the 32-year-old Swede admitted.

Sorenstam was second at the first major of 2002, the Nabisco Championship. She won the same event last year, was second in the US Open and placed third here, but she also missed the cut at the Women's British Open.

"Sometimes you pull it off, sometimes not," said Sorenstam, who gets started Thursday at 9:20 am (1320 gmt). "I've learned a lot and I've been more consistent. That's something I'm pleased about." The LPGA Championship has been particularly cruel to Sorenstam, who has never placed better than third. She has only two top-five showings at DuPont Country Club in the last five seasons.

"I know I have the game for this course and I've won majors, so mentally I can do this," she said of the 6,408-yard, par-71 layout. "I haven't performed as well as I should for four days, but hopefully it will change this year." "This is a big tournament, but I've got to focus on my game, and if I can do that, I think things will be all right." She'll have to focus if she plans on defeating the likes of South Korean star Se Ri Pak and Aussie Karrie Webb, who always seem to play well in big events. Where would the victory rank for Sorenstam.

"Way up," she said. "Way up." *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

Del Rosario paces bowling meet

ASIAN singles tenpin champion Liza del Rosario surged ahead in the four major events of the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Open Bowling Championship Wednesday night at the Green Valley Center in Pasig. Del Rosario teamed up with Liza Clutario and Cecilia Yap to power the RP trio on top of the class 0 team event with a score of 1257, dislodging the other national squad, led by Jojo Canare, which fired a 1225. Irene Benitez's Boysen-Euromed team went down to third place with 1185. Del Rosario now has the lock on all the main categories up for grabs, including the singles class 0 (946), all events (1698) and doubles where she is partnered with Benitez (891). National team coach Purvis Granger's stay at the top spot of the men's side appeared shaky as Benny Dytoc and Tyrone Ongpauco came up with impressive showings. Dytoc and Ongpauco finished with identical scores of 965 for a share of second and third. They were 11 pins behind the 976 total of Granger.

Table tennis tilt draws record field

A RECORD field of more than 600 players show their stuff today at the start of the 1st PCSO-President's Cup at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. "This is the largest participation ever in a table tennis tournament. This is an explicit proof that the sport's popularity is growing by leaps and bounds and more Filipinos are getting into it," said Table Tennis Association of the Philippines president Victor Valbuena. National players led by men's top-ranked Ernesto Ebuen and women's favorite Sendrina Balatbat, are seeing action in the men's and women's singles events only. Opening ceremonies start at 8 a.m. Invited guests of honor are Ali Atienza, chair of the Manila Sports Council, and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

PSC-PSA goodwill golf winners

BUHAIN

THE 7th PSC-PSA Goodwill Golf Tournament was held Wednesday with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain grabbing top honors at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Buhain ruled the PSC Division-Class A with a net score of 73, towing PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna and Philsports administrator Ramon Suzara, who both tallied 74. De Luna snatched 1st runner-up spot via the countback. PSC commissioner Leon Montemayor emerged overall low gross champion with an 82. In the Philippine Sportswriters Association Division-Class A, Philippine Daily Inquirer news editor Jun Engracia copped top honors with a gross score of 76, beating Star sports editor Lito Tacujan, who tallied an 80. Buhain thanked the PSA and Sta. Elena, particularly residential villages marketing director Gippy Tantoco for supporting the endeavor. Other winners in the PSC division-Class B (net scores) were Ike Buan (67) and Cesar Pradas (71). Arsenic Lacson took top honors in Class C. In the PSA Class A, PDI's Al Mendoza and Emie Gonzales both fired gross scores of 91. Gonzales, however, snatched the championship after a countback.

NGAP holds free clinics tomorrow

THE NGAP (National Golf Association of the Philippines) is inviting jungolfers to its free clinics starting tomorrow at the Kagitingan Driving Range in Fort Bonifacio. The clinics, where they will be taught the basic principle of golf swing–grip, posture, balance and swing plane–will be conducted by Dick Villalon, many-time member of the national team. Registration for the weekend clinics, backed by Callaway and DHL Worldwide Express, start at 7 a.m. Initiated by NGAP president Rod Feliciano, the free clinics are part of the NGAP's summer youth program. For details, contact NGAP at 525-6987 and fax no. 521-1587.

Navy keeps weightlifting title

PHILIPPINE Navy kept its men's open division crown even as Zamboanga City and Bohol shared the limelight in the National Weightlifting 5-in-1 Men and Women's Championships staged at the Negros Occidental Multi-Purpose Activity Center and Provincial Lagoon Grounds in Bacolod City. Hansly Casile, a double-title winner, Daniel Catingub and Alfonsito Albanete led the Navymen's campaign with a collection of 37 points for the overall crown. Philippine Air Force accumulated 35 points for runner-up honors followed by Philippine Army with 22. Casile ruled the men's 56-kg category with 225 points in both the snatch and clean and jerk lifts, and went on to annex the 56-kg division of the collegiate men's contest. Catingub took the 69 kg title with 235 points, while Albanete lifted a total of 277 kg to clinch the men's 77-kg bracket. The Zamboanga City WC ruled the youth boys and secondary boys competitions as Jaymar Perez (56 kg), Jomar Napolo Reyes (62 kg) and Ronald Colonia duplicated Casile's two-gold haul.

John Hay stages "The Invitational" today

SOBREPEÑA

THE CAMP John Hay Golf Club will be staging "The Invitational, its first member-guest golf tournament, " today in Baguio City. Club chair Robert John Sobrepeña will lead 100 confirmed participants, representing 50 two-man teams, which will battle for top honors and prizes in the two-day event. Smart Communication, Inc. is presenting the event together with major sponsors Premiere Wines and Wilson. Other backers are Excell Contractors and Kork Inc.

Inflatable soccer arena in Manila

AN INFLATABLE soccer arena, utilized to simulate an indoor soccer atmosphere, will make its debut in Manila in the 1st Globe Indoor Soccer Challenge and the Gentxt Cup. The events, to be participated in by 20 teams and over 300 athletes, will be played simultaneously on June 7-8 at the Nomads Sports Club in Bicutan. The 1st Globe Indoor Soccer Challenge and the Gentxt Cup are co-sponsored by DHL World Wide Express, Gatorade and Rudy Project.

RP Under-18 booters off to Vietnam

THE PHILIPPINE Under-18 football squad left yesterday to compete in the Vietnam U-18 Championship slated June 7-18 in Ho Chi Minh City. The Nationals are in Group B with host Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia. They make their debut on June 8 against the Vietnamese. Team members are Paolo Suner, Arman Esteban, Johanne Sablon, Lord Legpitan, Meliton Pelayo, Ricardo Becite, Kinley Delgado, Joemari Asparen, Kenneth Dolloso, Jose Marco Mendezona, Billy Rey Bataloya, Siegfried Apurado, James Dimaculangan, Joseph Rojo, Patrick Ozaeta, Paolo Apacible, Frank Mabasa, Raffy Narvaez, Louie Casas, Sasha Prochnow and Jason Mortillero. National coach Aris Caslib said the boys' target is to draw or win at least one game. Assisting Caslib are Bob Salvacion, Nonoy Carpio and Alexander Carpio.

Barbers, Jaworski Scoop guests

JAWORSKI

SENATOR Robert Barbers and Sen. Robert Jaworski have been invited to shed light on the investigation being conducted by the Upper House regarding the drug problems besetting the Philippine Basketball Association in today's Scoop sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue, Quezon City. Also expected to appear in the session sponsored by Photokina Marketing is Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, medical director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine.

NBL makes debut in Manila

THE NATIONAL Basketball League (NBL) makes its debut in Metro Manila with a double-header at the C. P. Tinga Memorial Hall in Taguig today. Host team Forward Taguig tackles Air Philippines-Bacolod at 7 p.m. Taguig Coach Danny Gavieres would like nothing less than a grand start for his team while Bacolod coach Lawrence Chongson has made the necessary adjustments after losing their first two outings in Ozamiz City. In the 5 p.m. opener, Spring Cooking Oil-Bulacan battles MaynILA with seven-time PBA import Bobby Parks finally making his NBL debut on the bench.

TJ Hotdogs lead Sportshouse activity

THE PUREFOODS TJ Hotdogs, led by team captain Alvin Patrimonio, will grace the Sportshouse Basketball Shootout at SM Southmall today. This fun activity presented by the country's leading sports and leisure retail shop will feature a Three-point Shooting Competition, 2 Ball, Beat My Score and a Celebrity 2 on 2. The UST Salinggawi dancers and the Yellow Jackets, the UAAP cheering champions will also perform in the Sportshouse event commemorating its 20th anniversary. Founded by Mars Chua two decades ago, the sports chain has 23 branches nationwide.

Wack Wack clubbing case stuck in sand trap

By Jong Arcano

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MEMBERS of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club who keenly await the final decision on the club-hitting incident involving business tycoon William Gatchalian and Greg Yu may have to wait a little longer.

While the membership committee had submitted its findings and recommendation to the board last week, a highly placed source said more en banc hearings have been scheduled this month.

Although the INQUIRER has yet to obtain a copy of the highly confidential membership committee report, highly reliable sources said that the expulsion of Gatchalian is being recommended for his grave offense of hitting fellow member Yu with a club on the fairway of the club's east course on March 18.

The Wack Wack board headed by club president and Comelec chair Ben Abalos had asked Yu to appear with his lawyer in the twice-a-week hearings that started Tuesday night.

The hearing was however postponed due to the absence of Gatchalian who was reportedly with the presidential party in Korea.

The hearing has been reset to a later date.

Also expected to be summoned to the hearings are the flightmates of Yu, together with the caddies, when the incident happened.

The case involving the two prominent Fil-Chinese businessmen has put the credibility of the Wack Wack board at stake.

Gatchalian, widely known as a regular playing partner of Abalos and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, owns vast business interests including the Waterfront chain of hotels and resorts.

Yu, on the other hand, used to be a majority stakeholder of the Belle Resources, the company which developed the now upscale Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands project, before the group of taipan Henry Sy took over.

Yu, in his complaint filed on March 18, said he and his flightmates were about to tee off on the seventh hole when they suddenly saw Gatchalian ahead of them about to hit from the fairway.

As stated in the complaint: Gatchalian had obviously jumped hole (a term used in golf when a player skips the hole he's supposed to play and proceeds to another which is strictly prohibited in most clubs).

Despite repeated warnings and shouts of "fore!", Gatchalian refused to give way.

Yu then decided to hit his drive with the ball bouncing and rolling past Gatchalian.

Gatchalian resented the action and drove his cart towards the tee mound to confront the then apologetic Yu.

It was noted that Gatchalian had refused to be appeased, and instead repeatedly tried to bump Yu with his cart, in full view of his shocked flightmates.

Gatchalian then allegedly hit Yu with the club he was holding.

Sports columnists who got wind of the incident deplored Gatchalian's action, saying it was a disgrace to what is called a gentleman's game.

Several internal clubs also took turns signing manifestos urging the board to mete out the toughest penalty on Gatchalian.

The last member to be expelled by Wack Wack was charged for firing a gun in the club premises. He filed a court case against the club but reports said the member had already sold his Wack Wack share when the court verdict came.

Observers said Abalos and the whole board are taking extra care before making its final decision as they cited the need to carefully study and evaluate the all-too-clear details of the incident.

RP cagers to go on campus tour

By Roy Luarca

THE RP-Cebuana Lhuillier men's basketball team is going on a campus tour this month as part of its preparations for international tournaments.

First stop is the College of St. Benilde where the Nationals will battle the Blazers on June 9.

Other National Collegiate Athletic Association teams the Nationals will meet are the Mapua Cardinals on June 11 and the defending champion San Sebastian College Stags on June 13.

The Nationals, being handled by veteran mentor Aric del Rosario, then take on squads from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines starting with the University of the East Warriors on June 16.

Also on tap are games against the reigning titlist Ateneo Blue Eagles on June 18 and the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, whom Del Rosario is also coaching, on June 20.

Del Rosario said the Nationals, honing up for the 22nd Asian Basketball Confederation Men's Championship slated in China from Sept. 3-12 and the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December, are in dire need of actual games to brush up on their play patterns.

The RP-Cebuana Lhuillier team is composed of Philippine Basketball League standouts, including Most Valuable Player candidates Ranidel de Ocampo, Rich Alvarez and Peter June Simon and collegiate stars James Yap and Paul Artadi of UE.

The Nationals are being managed by Jean Henri Lhuillier, who is being assisted by Danny Francisco.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim has already written the athletic directors of the schools concerned regarding the Nationals' exhibition series.

Montoya: Monaco GP win special

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—A victory in the Monaco Grand Prix gave former CART and Indianapolis 500 champion Juan Pablo Montoya a much-needed boost.

The Colombian driver came to Formula One with a great deal of fanfare in 2001 and showed signs that first year of developing into a serious championship contender.

He won at Monza as a rookie but hadn't been able to break through since.

Monaco is considered one of the world's most prestigious races. *AP*

SPORTS TV!

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

TENNIS: 2003 French Open; 7 p.m.; Solar Sports - The men take center stage as the semifinal round goes underway.

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals - Nets vs Spurs, Game 1 (June 5); 8 a.m. (r); Solar Sports - Catch the replay of yesterday's opening salvo of the NBA Finals.

NBA Inside Stuff; 9:30 p.m.; Star Sports - Get your fill of NBA highlights and interviews in this half - hour show hosted by Ahmad Rashad and Summer Sanders.

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A28

1. True (a content of 12 or more micrograms per milliliter constitutes a doping violation)
2. Ben Johnson
3. Endorphin
4. Ecstasy
5. Mark McGwire
6. 1968 Mexico
7. Erbito Salavarria

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!
1st Monthly Draw - May 30, 2003

Name:	Stub #	Address:	Prize:
1. Amelia Espatayosa	0004231	Taguig, Metro Manila	P1,000.00
2. Anita S. Bornea	0006508	Bacoor, Cavite	P1,000.00
3. Catherine C. Alegado	0006901	Novaliches, Caloocan City	P1,000.00
4. Mariz Gonzales	0007586	Alabang, Muntinlupa City	P1,000.00
5. Crisfel S. Villanueva	0055195	North Fairview, Q.C.	P1,000.00
6. Nenita S. Buenaventura	0003841	Caloocan City	P1,000.00
7. Bernadette B. Lico	0006609	Imus, Cavite	P1,000.00
8. Hansen Cofreros	0017408	Muntinlupa City	P1,000.00
9. Leila Villasin	0019606	Paranaque City	P1,000.00
10. Larcina M. Alo	0016516	West Fairview, Q.C.	P1,000.00
11. Marlon Dimapilis	0018825	San Miguel, Pasig City	P1,000.00
12. Ysabela Santos	0029184	Cogeo, Antipolo City	P1,000.00
13. Rosalinda Reyes	0004469	Balonbato, Q.C.	P1,000.00
14. Vincent Mendoza	0006783	Pandacan, Manila	P1,000.00
15. Analyn Pastorioso	0003720	Payatas A, Q.C.	P1,000.00
16. Aurea Baral	0055165	Novaliches, Q.C.	P1,000.00
17. Evelyn Chua	0011315	Caloocan City	P1,000.00
18. Ma. P. Honrado	0014259	San Miguel, Tarlac	P1,000.00
19. Rainer P. Rodriguez Sr.	0001881	Rosario, Pasig City	P1,000.00
20. Elmer P. Binuya	0008211	Jaen, Nueva Ecija	P1,000.00

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0281 Series of 2003

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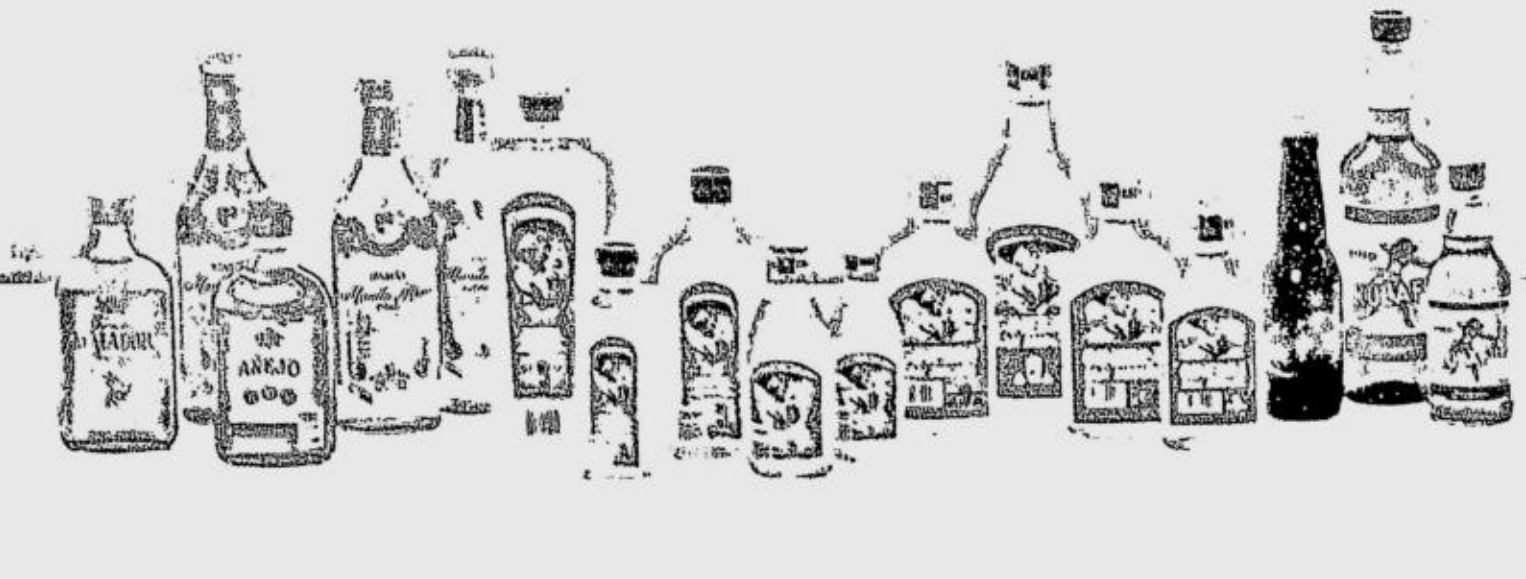

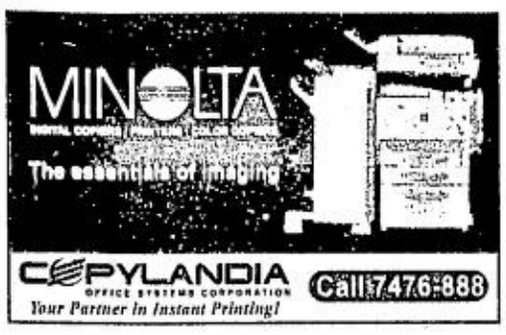

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

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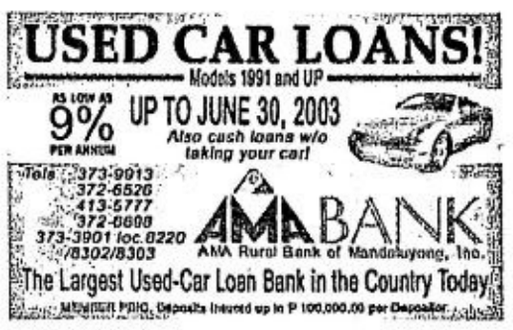


May inflation eases to 2.7%; stocks jump

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INCREASE in consumer prices remained benign at 2.7 percent in May, continuing the trend of a low-inflationary environment that started early this year, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

This raised hopes that inflation and interest rates for the rest of the year would be restrained. The stock market was quick to react to the good news, jumping 3.9 percent to an 11-month high.

It also prompted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to loosen monetary policy to stimulate a struggling economy.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the bank's policy-making Monetary Board had decided to restore a tiered system of interest rates that encouraged banks to loan to businesses.

"Despite robust consumer spending and improving manufacturing activity, the lack of a discernible momentum for domestic demand and the downside risks in the external environment continue to highlight the efficacy for a supportive monetary policy setting," Buenaventura said in a statement.

"The restoration of the tiering scheme is expected to further enhance the liquidity situation and encourage banks to lend to the public instead of placing their excess funds with the BSP," Buenaventura said in the statement.

He said the Monetary Board also decided to keep benchmark overnight interest rates unchanged. The bank has kept the overnight borrowing rate steady at 7 percent and the lending rate at 9.25 percent since March 2002.

The May inflation figure was a slight deceleration from the previous month's 2.8 percent, and was much lower than the 3.6-percent inflation recorded during the same period last year.

It was also within the National Economic and Development Authority's forecast of 2.6- 2.8-percent, but still lower than the government's full-year projection of 4 to 4.5 percent.

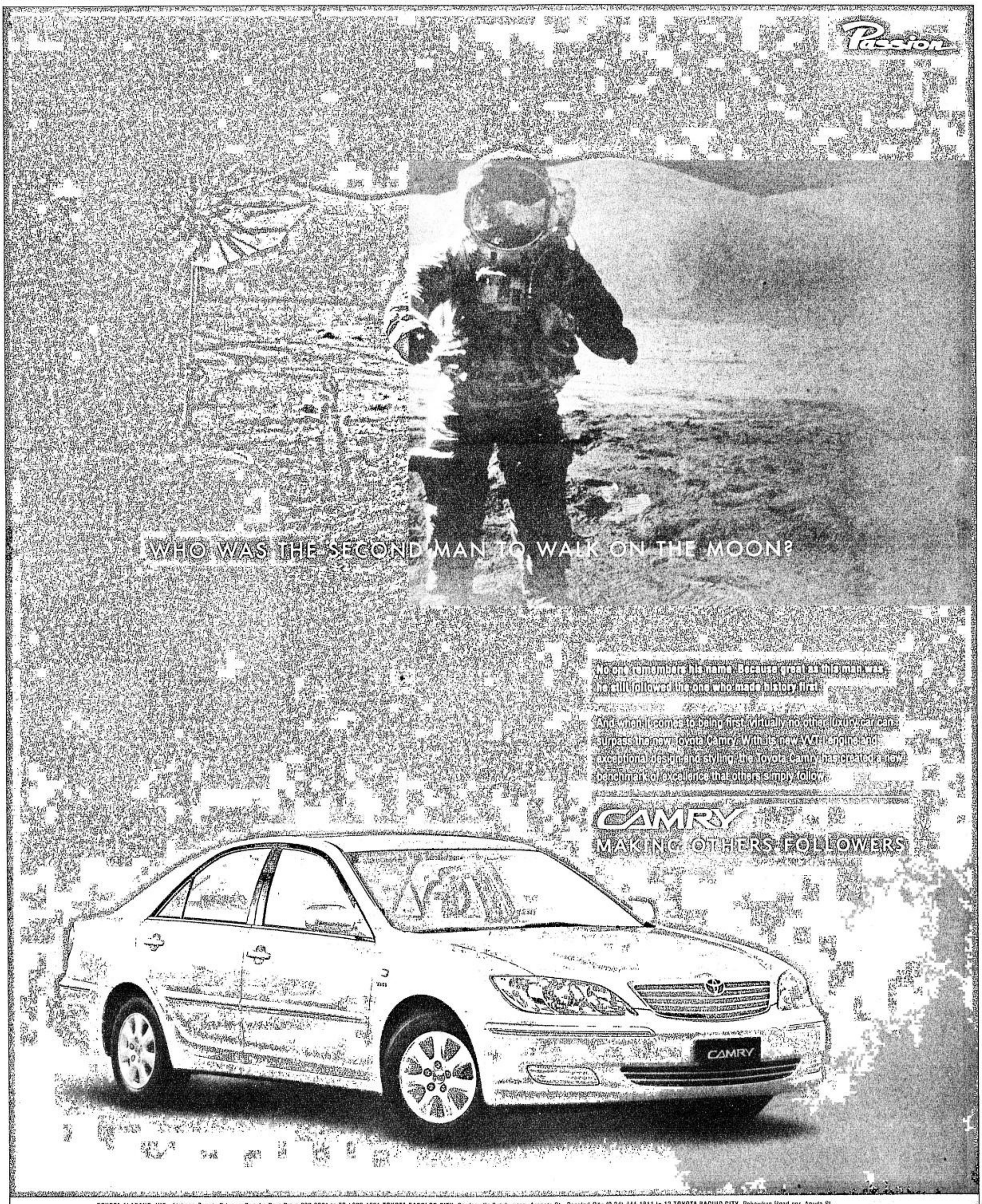
According to Economic Planning Secretary and Neda director general Romulo Neri, the lower-than-expected year-to-date inflation average, which was now at 2.8 percent, has virtually removed all pressures on consumer prices for the rest of the year.

He said, however, that possible typhoons and power price adjustments, which are expected to result from the unbundling of rates as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, were the remaining factors that could possibly disrupt the stability of prices.

Neri attributed a big part of the low inflation scenario to the shorter-than-expected US-Iraq war, which lowered Dubai crude prices from $27.38 a barrel in

MAY/ B6

P53.33= $1
As of 5 p.m., June 5, 2003



Stronger peso, lower interest rates seen boosting economy this year

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of the Philippine Island's asset management group has projected improved economic prospects this year with a stronger peso, lower long-term interest rates and a lift from preparations for next year's elections.

"Recent developments tend to paint a brighter, more optimistic picture of the economy than at any time since early last year," BPI senior vice president Adelbert Legasto said in a presentation yesterday.

Legasto said that if the first quarter's 4.5-percent growth were sustained, then the country was on track to meeting the government's minimum growth targets of 4 percent and 4.5 percent for gross domestic product and gross national product, respectively.

He also cited the country's improved fiscal picture given the April budget deficit, which was the lowest shortfall in 16 months.

Legasto said the bank had revised downward its inflation forecast for this year to 2.7 percent from its initial 4-4.5 percent projection given adequate food supplies, early rains, lower fuel prices and a stable exchange rate.

For the exchange rate, Legasto said the peso could depreciate towards the 55 to $1 level by August or September this year, the height of the country's import season.

By November to December, though, the bank expects to see the peso strengthening once again on the back of increased remittances from overseas Filipino workers and additional inflows from the financing of political campaigns for 2004 elections.

BPI said the peso would likely hover at 53.50 to 54.00 to the dollar for a full-year average of 54.00.

Legasto said that long-term rates were expected to fall while the 91-day Treasury would rise by the end of the year with the expected pump-priming as government and politicians prepare for the 2004 elections.

Given adequate food supplies, early rains, lower fuel prices and a stable exchange rate, the country's inflation would likely fall.

Top PSE brokers named

DEUTSCHE Regis, an affiliate of Deutsche Bank, cornered 15 percent of the total stock market trading volume in the first five months of this year, making it the number one broker of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Following Deutsche Regis were ATR-Kim Eng and Warburg with 14.2 percent and 8.8 percent market share, respectively.

In May alone, Deutsche Regis handled a commanding 20 percent of total market turnover at the PSE. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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SEC unit pushes fine on FDC

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission's compliance and enforcement department has endorsed to the Commission en banc's review unit the imposition of a multimillion-peso fine against the Gotianun family's Filinvest Development Corp. for alleged failure to dis-

SEC/ B6

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* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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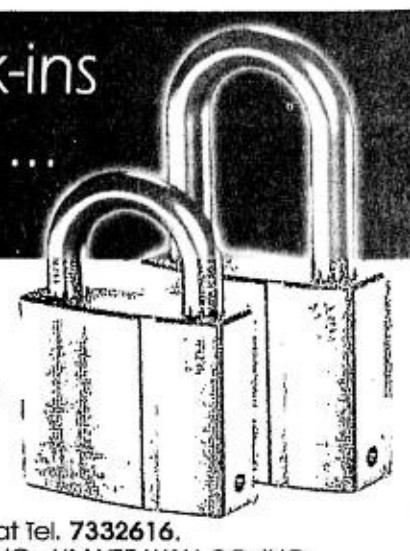

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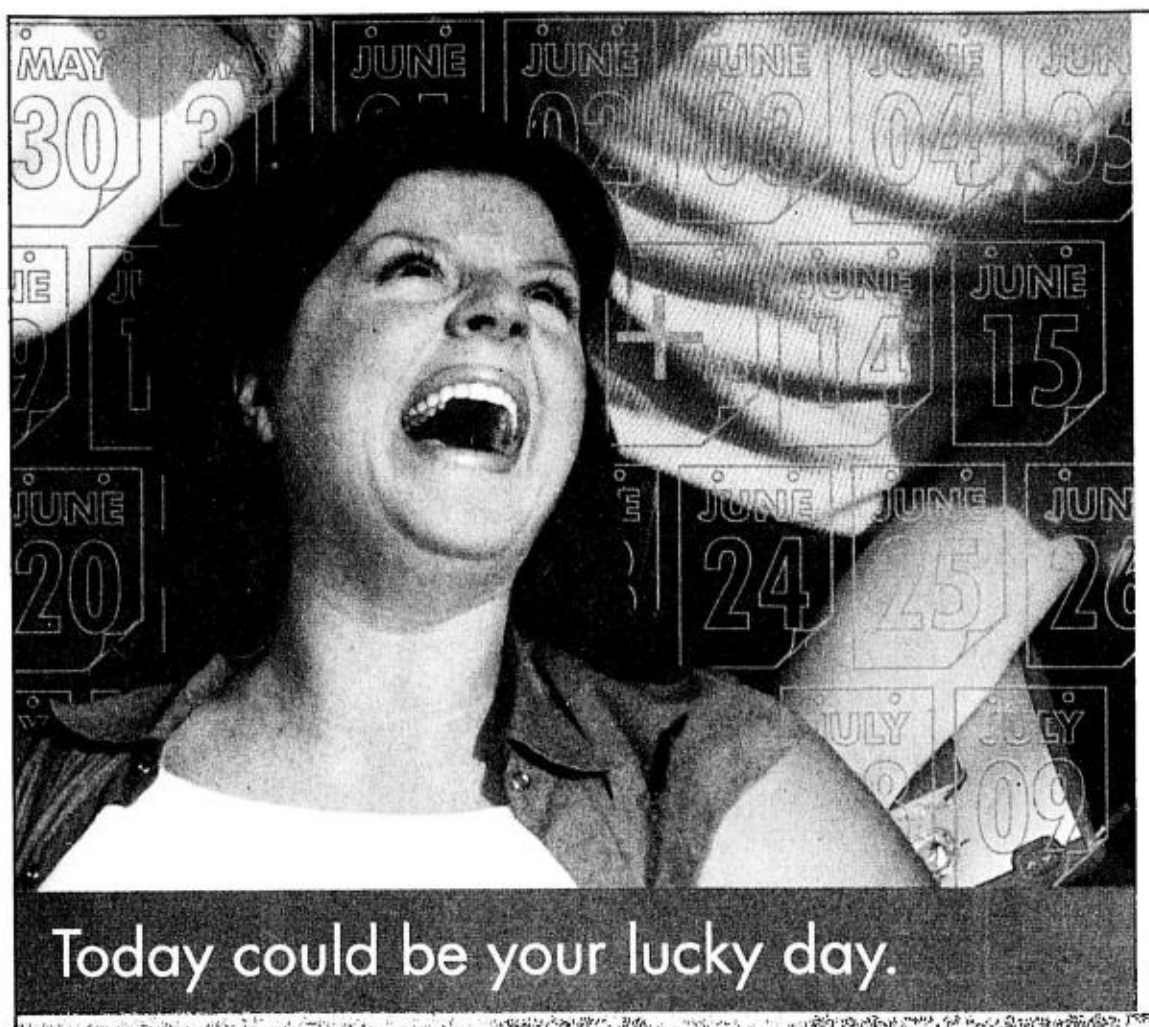

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PSC1210	PSC1210
Officejet 5110	OJ5110
PSC 2110	PSC2110
PSC 2210	PSC2210

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The Bagong Bayani Awards

A Tribute to World-Class Overseas Filipino Workers

Message

I extend my cordial greetings to the men and women of the **Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI)** and the **Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).**

I laud your sincere desire and willingness to uplift the morale and pride of the Filipino workforce abroad. I hope you continue to contribute to the growth and development of the OFW sector.

As government's partner in reinforcing overseas employment and ensuring their welfare, your role in addressing the needs of our OFWs gains relevance with our thrust to create a vibrant working relations with the global community. The task is daunting but with our concerted efforts, we can sustain the development opportunities and welfare of our kababayans abroad.

Let us continue our work together in realizing our national aspirations and in building a stronger republic.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Once again, the Filipino nation celebrates this year's Migrant Workers Day by paying homage to our overseas Filipino workers. As a fitting tribute to the greatness of our modern-day heroes, we highlight our celebration with the Bagong Bayani Awards.

Thus, I congratulate the newest batch of Bagong Bayani Awardees: persons of courage, excellence and social responsibility.

They make us proud of being Filipinos because of their achievements in a myriad of disciplines and spheres of work. From home and family service to industry, healthcare, management and crewing, they all exhibit the Filipino spirit of dedication, self-sacrifice, courage and professional commitment.

We owe it to recognize them for these. I therefore congratulate also the Bagong Bayani Foundation Inc. for continuously granting the Awards in partnership with the government.

The lives and admirable deeds of our overseas Filipino workers should inspire us all. Heroes and heroines in their own right, they have shining stories of steadfast struggles in the service of others for us to emulate.

Mabuhay ang lahat ng ating mga bagong bayani. Patuloy nawa kayong pagpalain ng ating Poong Maykapal, sampu ng iyong mga mahal sa buhay.

(Sgd.) PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

Since 1984, the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI) has always championed the positive values and qualities of Filipino migrant workers in the annual search for outstanding overseas Filipino workers.

After 19 years, the BBFI renews this mission with greater vigor and the deep commitment of all our partners. We believe that as an institution, the BBFI must go on in its vision to draw out the best from our OFWs for the rest of the world.

Foreign employers and principals themselves attest to the distinct advantages of working with Filipinos. The world considers Filipino human resources as valuable assets in any cross-cultural work setting. All over the world, across foreign lands and oceans, Filipino workers have endured and excelled wherever they may be.

With enduring faith in the Filipino worker, the BBFI shall continue to support and advocate for workers' welfare and benefits. With increased awareness and understanding of workers' conditions, we shall continue to honor and reward OFWs for their extraordinary acts of heroism and dedicated service.

In these difficult and troubled times, it is our prayer that our new and past awardees continue to live up to their responsibilities and duties as genuine ***BAGONG BAYANI.***

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

(Sgd.) CAPT. GREGORIO S. OCA
President
Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc.

In cooperation with the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc., the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is delighted to present the winners of the coveted Bagong Bayani Awards.

Out of the nominations we received from many employers, colleagues and civic organizations who participated in our annual search, interesting profiles of personalities qualified for the distinction.

We, Filipinos, will never run out of little heroes with big stories to share. From our migrant workers across the globe have come exemplary women and men deserving of the BBA accolade.

We doff our hats to all of them. They are the country's envoys of excellence. They represent our universal values, strong character and dependability, whether in times of crisis, prosperity or stability.

The nation has benefited much from the contributions of our overseas Filipino workers. For decades, they have been the saviours of our economy, a source of national pride and the engines of human development.

We observe this important event with much admiration and affection for all our migrant workers. The BBA is only one of the simple ways by which we chronicle the continuing success of our OFWs in the world of work and acknowledge persons who make it happen.

More power and welcome to the growing league of distinguished Bagong Bayani Awardees.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA D. BALDOZ
Administrator
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) congratulates, with much pride, recipients of the 2002 Bagong Bayani Awards.

As the Agency celebrates its 21st Foundation Day this year with the theme "OWWA at OFWs: Ugnayang Pinatatag ng Panahon, Magkabalikat sa Lahat ng Pagkakataon," aptly attributing the symbiotic existence between the nation's modern-day heroes and the government's premier institution in the aspect of welfare and well-being, you make us doubly happy to be a part of you.

You make your fellow countrymen feel ten feet taller each time people of other nationalities referred to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as one of the world's finest workforce. You make us misty-eyed whenever we hear of your remarkable deeds being appreciated by foreign employers. We are delighted to learn of the heroism and patriotism you display as part of the jobs you undertake in foreign lands.

But most of all, we are more than jubilant to confer you the recognition you fully deserve as the Bagong Bayani Awardee, indeed, the 'model of all models,' truly the cream of the crop.

Again, our sincerest congratulations to all awardees and may this recognition serve as a valuable legacy to you and your loved ones – a symbol of the nation's gratitude to an outstanding OFW which you and your loved ones will hopefully cherish in your entire lifetime.

(Sgd.) VIRGILIO R. ANGELO
Administrator
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

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The 2002 Bagong Bayani Awardees

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Renato Laxamana Casede

Cecilio B. de la Cruz, Jr.

Thelma T. Dumale

Amelita D. Deslate

Puralyn T. Fiel

Porfiria B. Gutierrez

Eduardo S. Mangulabnan

Redencion D. Meribeles

Remedios E. Ondona

Dick E. Orense

Ransam S. Pirote

Sofio M. Sanchez, Jr.

Cleofe C. Torrado

The Crew of M/V Tampa
TRMN Jose R. Rada; POEN Janyfrido A. Dones, BSN Reynaldo Golez; ABs Lino Ibonalo; Noel Lapuz and Teddy Umayam, OSs Allan Baroro and Alexander Abadilla; MTMs Ferdinand Palermo and Saniel Supan; WPR Jose Chua; 2CK Teodulo Deo; and MSM Leopoldo Buluran – all crew of the M/V Tampa – heroically rescued 438 passengers, including several pregnant women and children, of a sinking wooden Indonesian vessel in the Indian Ocean on August 26, 2001.

The Crew of Osprey
The all-Filipino crew of the Osprey – Benhar D. Abubakar, Voltaire M. Budlong, Mario M. Buhisan, Rosulo E. Camello, Rodrigo D. Cariaso, Cenon M. Castillo, Elvis S. Cortez, Norberto S. Fadriquela, Arnul L. Madideo, Leonardo E. Mamaril, Jimmy S. Obginar, Gerardo M. Osea, Vicente B. Saavedra, Mario S. Semilla, Edmund C. Tayamen, Bernardo A. Tiu, Benigno G. Valdez, and Allan P. Benigno – defied the violence of nature and showed extraordinary courage and quality teamwork by saving all the multinational crew of a sinking Norwegian vessel, Magi, in terrible weather off the coast of India.

AWARDING CEREMONIES
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace
7 June 2003 – 10:00 a.m.

National Anthem,	OWWA Choir
Invocation	Hon. Angeles Wong-Garcia *Deputy Administrator, POEA*
Welcome Remarks.	Capt. Gregorio S. Oca *President, BBFI*
Presentation of the Plaques of Recognition to Norwegian Maritime Unions First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo	Capt. Gregorio S. Oca *President, BBFI*
Presentation of Awardees	Hon. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz *Administrator, POEA*
Awarding of Plaques and Medals	H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Assisted by..	Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas *Secretary, DOLE*
	Hon. Virgilio R. Angelo *Administrator, OWWA*
	Capt. Gregorio S. Oca *President, BBFI*
Response from the Awardees	Mr. Renato L. Caseda *Awardee*
Introduction of the Guests of Honor	Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas *Secretary, DOLE*
Keynote Speech.	H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Master of Ceremonies: Hon. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz
Administrator, POEA

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M3 up

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported a 2.8-percent growth in domestic liquidity (M3) to P1.61 trillion in April from a year ago, a "modest" level which the institution believes will support the country's growth expansion.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a statement yesterday that M3 growth slowed down month-on-month from the 4.6 percent annual growth in March while seasonally adjusted M3 during the month stood 1.2 percent lower than the previous month.

Buenaventura said the growth in domestic liquidity was tempered in part by the one percentage point increase in the liquidity reserve requirement for banks that took effect on March 20.

Both private and public sector credits accounted for the expansion in M3.

The market's strong appetite for risk-free government securities combined with ample liquidity in the financial system helped fuel demand for government credits," he said.

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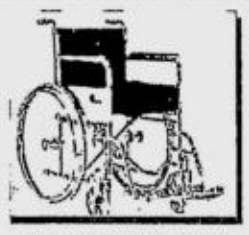
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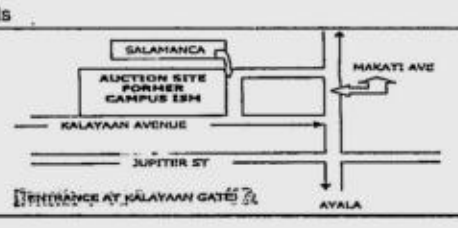

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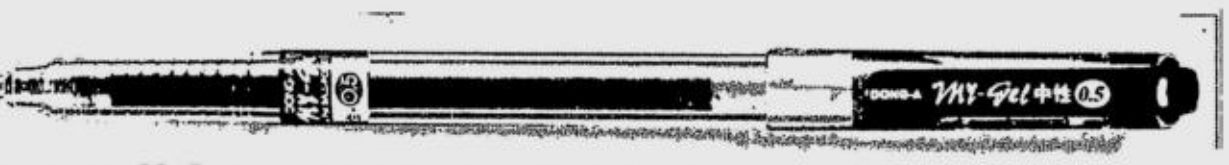

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TIER-2 CAPITAL

Equitable PCI sells $70M in additional 10-year bonds

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, sold an additional $70 million of 10-year bonds after the issue did well on initial sale and in secondary trading in international markets, bringing its subordinated debt qualifying as Tier-2 capital to $200 million.

The universal bank got the regulators' go-ahead to sell the bond issue on top of the $130-million initial offering it made on May 23, which was subscribed 2.5 times.

The bonds, which are exchangeable with those sold in the first issue, pay a coupon of 9.375 percent, mature in 2013, and are callable by 2008.

The sale was arranged by UBS Warburg, which had acted as sole bookrunner and co-lead arranger with Deutsche Bank in the earlier sale.

Equitable PCI Bank wrote the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on May 29, saying it was encouraged by the oversubscription of the first issue and by the bonds' positive performance in secondary markets to sell the $70-million issue.

The bank conducted a successful road show in Manila and Singapore in early May, while engaging investors in Hong Kong and London via conference calls.

With $200 million in fresh capital, Equitable PCI Bank said it has significantly strengthened its capital base and it was now primed for future growth.

Equitable PCI Bank president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura said: "The bank has reasserted its position in the Philippine market with its strong profitability and sound fundamentals."

Added bank chair Antonio L. Go: "The successful outcome of the transaction is a true testament of investor confidence in the bank. The debt issue marks a milestone for the country's financial sector, demonstrating that Philippine banks have access to supplementary capital from international financial markets."

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May inflation eases to 2.7%

From page B1

March to $23.46 in April.

He also cited the appreciation of the peso against the dollar from an average of 52.81 to $1 in April to 52.51 in May. He said this led to a reduction in fuel prices from an average of P16.88 a liter in April to P16.55 in May.

In the stock market, the price index rose to its highest level in nearly 11 months yesterday, inspired by the positive economic development and bullish markets abroad, analysts said.

The Phisix surged 3.9 percent or 43.73 points to 1,165.86, its highest finish since July 19, 2002. It was also the market's highest daily percentage-point gain since January 2002.

"It's unbelievable. I never thought the market would kick up this much," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

"I guess the low inflation picture raised hopes of lower interest rates ahead. Players also tracked the bullish trend in the United States."

Value turnover rose to P911.54 million from Wednesday's P600.59 million. *With a report from Reuters*

SEC . . .

From page B3

close material information before trading shares of subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc. last year in violation of the Securities Regulation Code.

The CED endorsed the imposition of a fine of P27.89 million.

An official of the SEC said that the Commission's review unit under the Office of the General Counsel issued Tuesday a letter asking FDC to show cause why it should not be penalized with the administrative fine.

The OGC directed the company to submit its reply within five days.

Initially, the CED prepared an investigative report claiming that FDC could be held accountable for insider trading of property unit FLI shares, but undertook a second review after getting the response of FDC.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, June 5, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.75	16.25	16.5	537,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	45.5	42.5	44.5	2,353,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	32.5	27.5	32.5	1,276,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	30.5	28.5	30.5	2,089,300
Philippine National Bank	21.75	23.5	21.75	23.5	543,100
Security Bank Corp.	10.5	11	10.5	11	253,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	19.25	18.25	18.75	46,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	64,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1500	1520	1500	1520	1,260
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1125	1100	1120	6,050
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	15	15.5	15	15.5	43,500
Diversified Fin. Network	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	3,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	615	605	615	131,680
Ipeople, Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	4,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	19,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	65,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,920,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	465	467.5	460	467.5	124,480
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	320,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7.2	7.2	6.9	7.1	2,727,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.5	12	11.25	11.5	3,463,300
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.86	20,279,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.62	1,861,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	775,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.49	.46	.49	3,300,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	300,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.1300	.135	.13	.135	500,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.830	.84	.83	.83	670,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.80	2.95	2.8	2.9	2,072,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.30	3.3	3.3	3.3	8,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.50	28.5	28.5	28.5	65,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.50	16.5	16.5	16.5	381,900
RFM Corp.	0.70	.7	.69	.69	290,000
San Miguel Corp. A	550	55	55	55	50,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63.50	64.5	63.5	64.5	45,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.20	4.25	4.2	4.25	224,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.240	.24	.24	.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	60,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	70,000
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.65	4.5	4.65	12,016,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	204,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	5,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	7,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.35	0.31	0.34	21,150,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.18	320,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	6,590,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	106,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	457,000
Ionics Inc.	0.66	0.7	0.65	0.7	220,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	604,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.61	3,420,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.2	14,650,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	1,280,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.07	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	12,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.74	1.8	1.68	1.76	122,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16	16	245,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	5,450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.36	1,500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	300,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	32	32	32	32	200
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	5,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	430,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.36	0.37	1,630,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	15.5	16	15.5	15.75	596,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
WGA - Preferred	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	11,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.5	18,146,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.16	0.17	1,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	930,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.175	0.185	6,890,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.93	43,060,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.16	760,000
Primex Corp.	3	3	3	3	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	2,781,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.6	5.1	5.5	30,310,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.04	1.04	0.98	1	273,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	.1900	0.19	0.19	0.19	350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	.2000	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Omico Corp.	.40	0.0044	0.004	0.004	93,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.130	0.014	0.012	0.013	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.28	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	45,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	.28	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	21,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	.1600	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000

DISCLOSURES

IPEOPLE Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

* * *

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on June 27, 2 p.m. at the Manila Golf & Country Club Forbes Park, Makati City.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. disclosed the resignation of Joseph Kong as director and vice president of the company.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 10, 2 p.m. at the Manila Golf Club, Makati City.

* * *

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

* * *

GLOBAL Equities Inc. disclosed the resignation of Raymundo Pe as independent director of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 5, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.858222	1.000000	53.250000
Japan	Yen	0.007224	0.008417	0.448200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.399245	1.630400	86.818800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110051	0.128231	6.828300
Switzerland	Franc	0.651154	0.758725	40.402100
Canada	Dollar	0.631742	0.736106	39.197600
Singapore	Dollar	0.497866	0.580114	30.891100
Australia	Dollar	0.571234	0.665602	35.443300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.276571	2.652661	141.254200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228859	0.266667	14.200000
Brunei	Dollar	0.496426	0.578436	30.801700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000123	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020620	0.024027	1.279400
UAE	Dirham	0.233670	0.272272	14.498500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.165200	62.046900
Argentina	Peso	0.303259	0.353357	18.816300
Brazil	REAL	0.292909	0.341297	18.174100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134678	0.156927	8.356400
India	Rupee	0.018357	0.021390	1.139000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225878	0.263193	14.015000

INTEREST RATES

June 5, 2003 MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 June 4, 2003 (%)	MART1 June 5, 2003 (%)
1 Month	6.9417	6.9583
3 Months	7.1205	7.125
6 Months	7.6636	7.7545
1 Year	8.1461	8.225
2 Years	8.7942	8.9096
3 Years	9.5769	9.8077
4 Years	10.2135	10.4192
5 Years	10.7462	10.9077
7 Years	11.3058	11.4154
10 Years	11.6827	11.7692
20 Years	12.0308	12.1115
25 Years	12.4115	12.5654

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

ABC's of 5

ABC Channel 5 is still seeking outside investors and possibly new owners, after exploratory talks with a group led by newly confirmed Ambassador to Laos Antonio Cabangon Chua collapsed.

According to the grapevine, the Cabangon Chua group did not like what they saw after conducting the requisite due diligence on the station. In addition, the station's broadcast studio in Novaliches will have to be relocated closer to the so-called Broadcast Row in Quezon City if it is to maximize its reception within the market-rich Central Luzon-Metro Manila-Southern Luzon corridor.

The Cabangon Chua group is but the latest in a long line of "suitors" who have taken a look at the country's youngest TV network, which is still struggling to be taken seriously in the ratings game.

If you believe the grapevine, Metro Pacific's Manuel V. Pangilinan, when he was still flush with cash, slipped away after Channel 5's Edward Tan quoted a price that would have enabled MVP to buy the entire, and much bigger Channel 7 network instead.

After MVP, San Miguel's Ramon Ang was the last of the serious parties said to have considered Channel 5 before the Cabangon Chua group. It was not clear whether the San Miguel vice chair was negotiating for himself or on behalf of his principal.

Sensing the desperation on the other side of the table, Ang was supposed to have quoted a price that would make the Chinese Jews proud of his bargaining skill. This time, according to the grapevine, it was Tan who blanched and promptly went back to his daily pilgrimage to Forbes' San Antonio Church.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Out, but not down

FIRST Pacific's Ronald Brown may have been forced out of the Hong Kong-based controlling shareholder of the PLDT, but the ex-managing director is still hammering away at his colleague and. replacement, Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Helped by a Makati-based public relations consultant, Brown has been making himself available to local reporters (the INQUIRER is unfortunately not one of them) to explain why he and MVP had clashed.

In brief, Brown was in favor of selling First Pacific's combined stakes in Fort Bonifacio and in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to taipan John Gokongwei, a strategy that MVP opposed, and eventually prevailed upon, apparently even over the initial objections of First Pacific's Indonesian principals.

Meanwhile, MVP's "cavalry" are trying to downplay the possible PCCW-Hong Kong Telecom presence in the First Pacific board with the recent election of a PCCW adviser/lawyer as an independent director.

Their official line: Robin Nicholson was a longtime lawyer for First Pacific even before he joined the PCCW board. Besides, MVP trusts him.

Ferrari fans

ITALIAN hot cars Ferrari and Maserati opened a joint showroom in Ortigas the other night, with no less than Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti as guest of honor.

The Ferrari/Maserati dealership has been awarded to Wellington Soong, the same chap who is bringing Jaguars into the country.

According to a slightly inebriated informant, the recently acquired blue Maserati coupe of Arturo Rocha was proudly displayed, alongside a red (of course!) Ferrari that still awaits a lucky owner.

Rocha was in his element, and understandably proud of his new baby, as he quaffed red wine along with Ferrari fans George Yang of McDonald's fame, William Go of PriceSmart, Marcos son-in-law Greggy Araneta and Romy Enriquez of R&E Taxi.

Heard through the grapevine

EX-SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay will come out from his subterranean consultancy at the Aguirre group of companies to formally become the spokesperson of the companies, as well as for the group's principal, billionaire polo player Albert "Bobby" Aguirre.

Yasay will swear by the Aguirre group's adherence to highest standards of corporate governance. We are not kidding.

Meanwhile, another Aguirre consultant, ex-Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, cannot seem to make up his mind whether or not to go public with his defense of the billionaire-playboy.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Subic auctioneers face 10% VAT

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT is poised to collect millions of pesos in back taxes from auctioneers of imported, second-hand vehicles at the Subic Freeport zone as part of its efforts to clamp down on this lucrative trade which is hurting the automotive industry.

This was disclosed by Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno who said that the government would base the duties and taxes on used vehicle imports on the winning bid price in the auction rather than on the invoice price.

In a position paper, Parayno said the Bureau of Internal Revenue would charge a 10-percent value-added tax on all vehicles sold by used vehicle traders in Subic—Asia International Auctioneers (AIA), Subic Base Motors Corp., and the United Auctioneer—including the thousands of units they sold since 1999.

Parayno said that the VAT collections (which would be based on the winning bid price) would continue pending the BOC's implementation of guidelines on the proper assessment of duties on used vehicle imports.

The BOC wanted to base the duty payments of the used vehicles on the winning bid price rather than on the four-year-old practice of basing it on customs valuation.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines claimed that the used imports were acquired by auctioneers at practically scrap value and were sold at the auctions at high margins to local buyers.

Parayno said the foreign suppliers' invoice valuation gave the auctioneer a stronger leverage with the zone customs office to bring down duties and taxes.

He said the legality of using the invoice rather than bid price was questioned in the light of the adoption of the transaction value as the basis for customs valuation rather than home consumption value or the good's price from the country of origin.

Campi has argued that the used-vehicle imports should only be assessed duties at the point of sale to the local buyers and not at the time of shipment to the Subic Freeport, which has duty-free privileges.

Since the auctioneer pays for the duties even before the units were sold to local buyers, Parayno said the BOC would deduct the upfront payment made by the auctioneer from the custom-duty based on the winning bid price to avoid double counting.

While the BOC's decision to use the winning bid price for valuation would slash profits of Subic auctioneers, used vehicle imports were likely to persist, which was why Campi has continued to pressing the government to fulfill its commitment to ban the trade. The President is currently in Japan on a working visit where he would meet with top officials of Toyota, Honda and Mitsubishi.

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Gary Lauriano
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Abner Villahermosa
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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Three-point shot to market the Philippines

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE JAPANESE ambassador let loose some frank opinions on peace and order in the Philippines. The American envoy responded by saying he was bullish about investment here. Then the American Chamber of Commerce issued an advocacy paper called "The Roadmap to More Foreign Investment."

So goes another episode in the drama of winning the hearts and minds of foreign investors. But the effort needs hard thinking, so are there any hard data on their perceptions?

One source is a talk given by Peter Wallace, the president of the Wallace Business Forum, to the faculty and students of the UP School of Economics last December 2002. The seminar was wide in scope, but this piece will focus on investor opinions.

Low investment priority

During his business briefings for foreign companies, Wallace would ask the participants to fill out his survey questionnaire. He got the following rankings of multinationals' head offices as regards their preferred investment sites in Asia.

China	98 points
Thailand	45
Malaysia	30
South Korea	20
India	17
Singapore	15
Vietnam	11
Philippines	9
Taiwan	7
Japan	5
Indonesia	4
Hong Kong	4

That is, the Philippines was ranked 8th in the list, and got only 9 points, compared to topnotch China's 98.

He added that 47 percent said their headquarters had a Reserved or Negative attitude to existing operations in the Philippines. The Reserved/Negative ratio was even 69 percent for new investments in the country. And 63 percent said their head offices saw the Philippines as a Worse investment site compared to the rest of the Asean.

Falling competitiveness

The nation's competitiveness has been slipping, Wallace reported in 2002.

The Philippines fell to 61st place among 80 countries in the World Economic Forum (WEF) survey last year. It was ranked around 35th in 2000. As regards the International Institute of Management Development (IMD) survey, the Philippines ranked 40th among 49 nations in 2002. Both were the country's lowest readings so far.

The analyst said that in both surveys, the country got poor grades in infrastructure, telecom facilities, corruption, and spending on research and development.

Included in the poll were questions on the factors that attracted and repelled investors. In his system, 5 points went to the item ranked as the 1st priority, 4 points went to the 2nd place, etc. His corporate survey yielded the following rankings.

MAINTAINING peace and order, especially in the streets of Metro Manila and in the conflict areas of Mindanao, is one way to bring in foreign investments.

Top investment attractions

English language proficiency—155 points

Market potential/size/quality—48

Labor ability, quality and reliability—46

Adaptability to Western culture and practices—44

Educational attainment/literacy of workers—41

Availability of skilled workers—36

Low cost environment, including labor cost—34

Positive Filipino attitude—24

Quality and quantity of middle management, technical people—19

Comfortable lifestyle—17

By far the main lure was the Filipino's proficiency with English. However, as noted by the American Chamber of Commerce last June 2, 2003: "AmCham believes the deterioration of English is rapid and extensive, undermining the country's chief international competitive advantage."

Barriers to investment

Peace and order and security problems—131 points

Corruption—103

Poor infrastructure—69

Political instability—54

Inconsistency of policies—50

Bureaucratic red tape/mess—37

Slow legal and justice system—32

Local market size, growth and access—32

Economic instability—27

Negative Filipino attitudes—21

Excessive taxes or low tax collection—19

The top two concerns were security and corruption. Security problems ranked only 9th in 1999, but they became more prominent over time. Transparency International ranked the Philippines as the 11th most corrupt country in the world, in a list of 102.

Focus on first three points

These are a dizzying array of performance dimensions. How then can the Philippines manage them to attract investment? The following comments are the author's; they did not come from the source seminar.

One practice is to look for the 80/20 winners. That is, choose a fraction of the dimensions, say 20 percent, that can reap 80 percent of the gains. This can be done by highlighting the most glaring data.

Another insight is to become a niche leader in the global scramble for foreign investment. A school of niche marketing holds that leading players tend to (1) select a dimension where they can dominate, (2) attain decent or reasonable grades in the other dimensions, and (3) structure the corporate mechanism to ensure continuous upgrades and leadership in the niche dimension.

Putting these strains together, the country would likely make the most headway by pursuing first these top three priorities. They are the 3-point shot for luring foreign investment:

- Achieve peace and order, especially in the streets of Metro Manila and in the conflict areas of Mindanao.
- Pull off major victories in the fight against graft and corruption
- Vigorously and continuously upgrade the English proficiency of the labor force.

While seeking the most dramatic gains on these three, the state should also show decent progress in the other areas of concern, like poor infrastructure, bureaucratic red tape, and policy inconsistency. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>*

ACCREDITATION to five-star hotels gives Juan Carlo an edge in the catering business. MEI MAGSINO

Batangueño enters the Manila market

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BAUAN, Batangas—To cope with the economic crisis and the increasing number of local copycat caterers, Juan Carlo-the Caterer has found a new haven catering to Manila's clientele.

"Unlike here in the province where weddings are not held on Fridays, in Manila, there are wedding receptions that we cater to everyday," says engineer Alex del Rosario, Juan Carlo proprietor.

"But that doesn't mean that we have left Batangas. We are still very visible here. Since the economic crisis, some people have opted to cook food by themselves to lessen their expenses. And that greatly affected the income of local caterers," he adds.

But for big events in the province, Alex's former clients still hire their services.

"Batangueños are still considered well-off compared to other provinces' afforded price per plate," Tita del Rosario, co-proprietor and Alex's wife, says.

Juan Carlo-the Caterer was featured in Sundaybiz on March 24, 2002.

"After the INQUIRER story, inquiries from big and small companies with private occasions or wedding receptions that need our service came pouring in," Alex says.

He adds, "A month after that, I was even elected to the board of directors of the Food Caterers Association of the Philippines. I was the association's newest member and the only BOD from the province."

Manila receptions

One thing common in all their Manila-based clients' inquiries is: How could a caterer from Batangas serve the food on time when it is cooked in the province?

"Getting to Quezon City from Batangas is actually faster now with the Southern Tagalog Access Road (STAR) and the C-5 route. It actually takes only two hours, compared to the travel time if you come from Makati City, which takes more than three hours. I think the distance is not a problem for us."

The catering company professionalized the catering business in Batangas.

Copycats

Since last year other caterers tried to copy their food and props, and even tell clients that they can serve the same food at a cheaper cost.

"But after their service that was supposed to imitate ours at a lower cost, our former clients always come back to us and complain that those copycat caterers only embarrassed the hosts of the party for serving low-quality food and service," Alex says.

"One thing that the copycats can't imitate is that we have continuous innovations in our food, props, equipment and artistic presentation of the food," Alex says.

"Another thing they can't copy is the way we train our people to give the best service to our clients. We still set the trends. That way, before the copycats can imitate our style, we are already moving onto the next one."

Juan Carlo trains its people from October to December, when the peak season for caterers start.

Last year, the company trained over 300 personnel.

"Until now, when it comes to food tasting, which is a requirement in Manila's top reception venues, we have never been beaten. Just a taste of our food, and the venues readily accredited us as one of their caterers," Alex says.

Juan Carlo also joins expos and wedding fairs.

Text Marketing: Ideal for SMS (suki marketing strategies)

MARKETING MIX

By Ned and Ardy Roberto

I WAS introduced to SMS/text marketing by Wallace Panlilio, an AIM M.E. (Master's In Entrepreneurship) graduate and a pioneer in the pre-paid phone card business. With his Singapore based partner, Ian Morrison (a Scot who started out by programming Nintendo games) and former Globe Telecom executive, Mimmie Ong, as country manager, they formed TinCan Mobile Marketing Services.

Last year, they helped me market my seminars, books, events and the Direct Marketing Forum which I founded, using SMS marketing.

I am excited about the potential that SMS marketing promises to small and medium sized businesses as well.

Last year, a cousin who coowns an upscale restaurant opened a branch in Greenbelt 3, Makati. He complained about his sales so I gave him some suggestions on how to do some low-cost marketing, including e-mail and SMS.

GB3 became a crowd drawer and this time he started complaining about the sales in his Rockwell branch.

Over our favorite Two Oceans red wine (my fee), I gave my cousin, who does not have any marketing budget, a Suki Marketing Strategy plan using the SMS/Text marketing lessons that I learned from the DMForum:

1. Ask for your customer's cellphone numbers. Sell to your existing customers! My cousin asked me if he could send an SMS promo text to 10,000. Yes, you could. But the worse thing you can do is to buy a list/dbase from one of those companies that sell tens of thousands of cell phone numbers, and then spam 'em. There is nothing more uncool and can get you in hot water than spamming people. (Spamming is sending people who you do not have a previous relationship with promotional stuff—either via email or SMS. I've made the mistake of trying it. So don't do it.) If you send an SMS to people who you don't know, then you'll just get a lot of text backs saying, "hus dis?!"

If you have a retail shop or restaurant like my cousin, you could have a fishbowl with a sign, "drop your card with your cellphone number and we'll send you cool promo discount coupons via text!" That way they will welcome your initial SMS contact/promo because you asked permission and they opted-in.

2. Organize and build your customer database. In a week or a month (depending on your store's traffic), you should have at least 500 or so calling cards with cellphone numbers. Now it's time to encode them in your computer. If you don't have an IT or database manager in your company, then get someone from AMA or STI who can work for almost free as an OJT. Have them encode all the business cards into a simple program (even Excel or Lotus or MS Outlook) and make sure that they encode all the information in the business card (not just the cell phone number). Make sure also that your OJTs type the data, like first name, last name, address, phone number, fax, cell, e-mail in separate fields. (This is important especially if you want to send them personalized direct mail later on using a mail-merge type program. The right way to do direct mail marketing will be discussed in a future column.)

After that, enter the cell phone numbers (or export them) to an SMS software wherein you can send a hundred or a thousand SMS messages at the same time. I didn't know that my Palm Pilot could do that until a friend told me I could. Check out some web based programs like Chikka. Visit www.chikka.com. The cool thing about Chikka is that they give you an allowance of 50 free SMS per day. The uncool thing is that you can only send your message to 10 people at a time. You can also try ICQ (www.ICQ.com) but it can only send to Smart users. Also try Singapore based Xpedite (www.Xpedite.com) or go local and contact Ernest Custodio at Indio (www.IndioCRM.com).

For bigger companies who already have a database of their customer's cell phone numbers and want to do an SMS broadcast in the tens or hundreds of thousands, they can try TinCan Mobile Solutions (0917-8480020), or Cliff Eala's Sequel Solutions (0917-8133658.) These companies have done work for Smart, Globe, Coke, etc. More companies are trying to figure out how to take advantage of SMS marketing.

3. Create your offer. In thinking about what to offer, always think of offering a free item instead of a discount. I suggested to my cousin to give away a free glass of wine or a cake when his *sukis* dine on his low-traffic days or times. Of course, you'd have to set a minimum purchase, but offering something free is less expensive than offering a 10 percent discount on the total bill. Getting a glass of wine or slice of cake has a perception of bigger value as well.

Direct Response marketers have tested "Free" offers vs "Discount" offers. Free always wins out. "Free" is one of the most powerful words that a marketer can use.

Compose your promo message in 160 characters or less including spaces. (It's okay to use text lingo too but don't over abbreviate so that your promo is open to misinterpretation. Make sure that your message is friendly—remember you're communicating with your *sukis*—and not boring.

4. Launch! Send the text and hold your breath! If you're a restaurant owner, send the SMS coupon two or three hours before lunchtime or dinner time when people are deciding where to eat. For retail business owners, of course, you'd like to send it within shopping hours. Don't despair if you get a few nasty replies or a "hus dis?" reply from customers who already opted-in to your SMS promo. If your customers pass the promo coupon to their friends, then well and good! Honor forwarded SMS coupons. (That's Viral Marketing at work!)

5. Measure. Track down responses. Make sure that your resto supervisor or manager tracks down the number of SMS coupons that were redeemed.

While successful direct mail campaigns usually get a one to three percent response rate, response rates for SMS marketing can reach 10 percent or even 30 percent. Ten or 30 customers for every 100 SMS coupons sent, piling into your store on an off-hour or day to redeem their SMS coupons is great.

You not only get more sales but your customers will feel good and privileged as well.

This is a tried and tested way of appreciating your customers or *sukis*.

The buzzword among marketers lately has been CRM—or customer relationship management. Dickie Soriano, managing director of OgilvyOne, says CRM is "just a fancy acronym for *suki* marketing." Which is making sure you know whom your *sukis* (regular customers) are and treating them well.

You need not have an A in calculus to figure out the ROI on this Suki Marketing tactic. (Figure out cost of fishbowl and sign to gather cards, OJT student's allowance for encoding the data and cost of sending out the SMS coupons—P1 or P2 per text, depending on your plan and telco, plus the cost of the freebie (whether it's an order of appetizer, dessert, or a drink) versus your expected increase in store sales.

Aha! Is that a light bulb over your head? Try it. And if it works, treat us to some wine.

I would personally urge direct marketers to ask their bosses or clients to use this new SMS and/or MMS medium for their companies loyalty programs. With the new Whistle location technology how about Mercury Drug sending a SMS or MMS coupon or reminder to its Suki Card holders when they step into a mall saying: "You've got X number of points in your suki card." Or how about National Bookstore doing the same thing to its Laking National card holder base.

Why am I so gung-ho about mobile marketing? The consumer marketing implications of the boom in cellphone ownership are better explained by my Dad, Dr. Ned, the guru. So watch out for it in next week's column! Send comments and questions to dmforum@edsamail.com.ph

Editor's note: Marketing Mix is a new column in Business Friday. Ned Roberto is the acknowledged marketing guru in the Philippines. A graduate of the Kellogg School of Business of Northwestern University, he has been teaching at the Asian Institute of Management.

Ardy is Ned's son. He is the founder of the Direct Marketing Forum (www.DMForum.net.), edits and publishes his father's marketing books and acts as literary and marketing agent for Ned's internationally published books.

Asian bond market vital for new Asian unity

TOKYO—Asian leaders yesterday agreed that a regional bond market that would be immune to currency speculation and capital flight is vital to their prosperity.

"The new partnership in Asia will not achieve its objective if the capital and liquidity problems in Asia remain pending," Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told a Tokyo symposium on the "Genesis of a New Asian Order."

"The question I asked myself was what would be the appropriate financial instrument to break the vicious circle underlying this problem of liquidity? My answer is the Asian bond," he said.

While noting "the time for the Asian Bond is long overdue," Thaksin welcomed regional contributions to his scheme to launch a billion-dollar Asian Bond Fund (ABF) which will focus on investing in regional government bonds.

Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand are the participating countries.

Thaksin said the Asian Bond "will support a more balanced and stable financial market of the world" together with the US and the Euro bond markets.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the Thai scheme was similar to what Japan had proposed—an Asian monetary fund—during the 1997-98 Asian currency crisis.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the 1997-98 currency crisis was "just a waste of our energy and time" while underscoring the importance of having bonds denominated in local currencies rather than the dollar.

"We need to rethink whether we can depend on the US dollar or not ... initially yes, we have to depend on the US dollar but we should move away from the US dollar," Mahathir said.

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo said she also agreed Asia "should move away from dependence on the US dollar." *AFP*

SBMA aims to lure P100M in Korean investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority expects to generate P100 million in new investments with the establishment of a Korean business park inside the former American naval base.

SBMA Chair Felicito C. Payumo said the establishment of a Korean business park has come at an opportune time in view of the renewed interest of Korean businessmen in the country following the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo early this week.

Payumo said a Korean business group would put up Greenwoods Park 1 which would provide a venue for potential investments, specifically small-scale enterprises that cater to retail and specialty stores, tourism related business and enterprises.

He likened the project to the Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City, which has attracted top information technology and multinational corporations.

He said that at least 16 investors have committed to take up space in the business park and he expressed confidence that the project would generate up to P100 million in new investments. The park would be built at the freeport's central business district near the main gate.

Payumo expressed confidence that the Korean business park would be as successful as the special enclaves for Taiwanese and Japanese businessmen inside the Subic Freeport Zone.

A Subic-based businessman, Robbie Jung, said the President's state visit to Korea was timely considering that Korean businessmen had been looking outside their country for expansion.

Aside from business, Payumo said Koreans were also looking to Subic as a vacation site with its tourist spots and tight security. He noted that Cebu Pacific offers direct flights from Inchon, Korea, to Subic.

PAYUMO

CORPORATE AGRARIAN REFORM

Review of MOA between Hacienda Luisita, beneficiaries sought

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

(Last of three parts)

TARLAC CITY—The inevitable question that the owners of Hacienda Luisita, the government and the beneficiaries themselves must answer is: "Are they better off with stock distribution option (SDO) than if the land was parceled out?"

The beneficiaries say they are not.

"*Maranup la deng tao* (The people are hungry)," says Apolonio Tobias Jr., a regular seasonal worker.

The Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), in a position paper it submitted to the Department of Agrarian Reform, maintains that the SDO was still the best option for the beneficiaries, citing the amount of money that the HLI had given them from 1989 to 2000.

Among these were salaries, wages and other fringe benefits including hospitalization worth P2 billion, interest-free loans worth P200 million and a 3-percent production share of P102.64 million.

Also included were the 3-percent share in the sale of 500 hectares of land worth P37.5 million and the value of the home lots given to 3,274 beneficiary-families, which are not more than 240 square meters each.

For Tobias, this translates to an annual compensation of P39,834 if he works 200 days a year at the prevailing daily rate for regular seasonal workers of P199.17. For others, it is much less.

"The HLI has provided its employees with a very generous source of living over and above what each individual employee might have earned if he/she was given the land directly," the HLI position paper said.

Had the land been distributed to them, the paper said, the beneficiaries would have lost all the benefits and would have shouldered the necessary inputs in the three-fourths of a hectare they received to make it productive.

The paper also said the beneficiaries "might not have the entrepreneurial and technical skills to run the farm successfully."

Francisco Sigua, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU), admits that generally speaking, farm workers are not "entrepreneurial," a skill that should have been developed in them in the last 13 years.

Sigua says this was evident when he initiated the organization of a cooperative so they could have a parallel organization for an enterprise. He nonetheless pursued it through the help of the DAR.

He said the cooperative received a P2-million loan from the Sugar Industry Foundation Inc. (Sifi) through Land Bank of the Philippines.

Sigua said they used the amount to buy six trucks that they rented out to haul sugarcane. He said they had already paid half the loan.

Capability building

The acquisition of entrepreneurial and technical skills to run a sugarcane farm is critical, especially if the farm workers had opted to acquire the land instead of stocks.

The workers could then pool their farms into a cooperative that would become an independent sugar planter. But at the time the SDO was implemented, the policy environment tilted heavily on the side of the landowners.

The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council that approved Hacienda Luisita's SDO plan was chaired by no less than former President Corazon Aquino.

Capability building is indeed one aspect that should have been emphasized and focused on at the start of the SDO, says provincial agrarian reform officer Edson Arceo.

Arceo says this should have made a difference in the beneficiaries' "sense of ownership."

FORMAL signing of Memorandum of Agreement between Tarlac Development Corp. and farmer-beneficiaries of Hacienda Luisita's Stocks Distribution Option. PHOTO FROM NEWSLINE

But as the initial implementation of the program was directly handled by DAR's central office then, Arceo said the role of the provincial DAR office was largely concentrated in overseeing the election of the beneficiaries' representatives to the board.

Phil Inocencio, assistant DAR director for Central Luzon, says that unlike other agrarian reform communities (ARCs), support to the Luisita beneficiaries has been limited because basic support services are being given by HLI such as financial support in the form of the 3-percent production sharing.

A 2001 study undertaken by Merlyne Paunlagui and Agnes Rola of the Institute of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies of the University of the Philippines in Los Banos, Laguna, noted that the DAR had provided little training, technical and financial support to the Luisita ARC.

The study also cited that "one of the constraining factors to the growth of social capital was the dissatisfaction of the beneficiaries with the SDO."

Beneficiaries as stakeholders

The study recommended that DAR "examine the different options aside from the SDO arrangement, in favor of the beneficiaries."

Beyond the need for more government support to SDO beneficiaries, Ruben Martinez, an anthropologist who teaches applied behavioral science at the graduate school of De La Salle University, says both parties should get out of their respective comfort zones "and clarify their roles in the new equation."

Martinez says both should get out of the "benefactor-dependent mold" and move into a co-owner relationship.

He says the bigger challenge lies on the beneficiaries, as they should start looking at themselves as stakeholders with interest in the company and look at land not as a factor of production but as an investment represented by their shares.

Martinez adds that it is not enough that the beneficiaries have representatives in the board. "What is more important is how the representation is being done," he says.

By doing so, beneficiaries should propel themselves with or without external support, he says.

"Corporations evolve like organisms and they cannot be the static unicellular amoeba while the rest of their environment have multiplied a hundred fold. They have to innovate, evolve, adopt or eventually die out," he says.

Aware of the dynamics at the hacienda, and in view of DAR's role as the implementing agency and overseer of the program, Inocencio says "it is time that both parties go back to their basic document and review their 1989 MOA."

The rice summit and farmer power

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THE FIRST National Rice Summit was held last May 28-29 in Quezon City. Coordinating the summit was the Philippine Peasant Institute led by Omi Royondoyan. The summit's representation was impressive: 150 farmer leaders from 97 small farmer organizations in 49 rice-producing provinces.

But why only now?

Compared with other countries, the Philippines has weak farmer power. It does not have a well-organized national farmer and fisherfolk organization. Slowly, the various sub-sectors of the agricultural sector are getting organized. For example, the mango growers did it only in 2001 and the corn producers, in 2002. This year, the rice farmers organized themselves during the summit under the National Small Rice Farmers Council. Three factors motivated this.

In the middle of last year, the small rice farmers heard that the government was formulating a rice master plan. However, since they felt they were not being consulted sufficiently, they initiated farmer consultations on their own in each region. At last week's summit, they decided to unite with one voice in presenting the government their own rice master plan. This is different from the past when they would merely react to a government plan that was often finalized with little farmer participation.

Liberalization in 2005

With only one and a half years left, the farmers feel ready for rice liberalization and the removal of quantitative restrictions only if the promised safety nets are in place. Unfortunately, these are sorely lacking. These nets include irrigation, post-harvest facilities, credit, marketing structures and technology dissemination. Rice liberalization must therefore be deferred.

The farmers also cited damaging trade experiences such as rampant rice smuggling and the control of rice importation by traders using small farmer organizations as fronts. They recommended the farmers' involvement in the anti-smuggling drive, similar to that of the vegetable and livestock farmers. It was noted that with farmer participation and the leadership of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, the smuggling rate for vegetables and livestock in major ports decreased dramatically from 40 percent to 16 percent in the first six weeks and to 0.4 percent after three months.

Organic vs chemical

Emmanuel Yap of MASIPAG cited several experiences of farmers that showed how chemical-based farming demanded a lot of inputs. Farmers often had to take large loans carrying usurious interest rates because of the poor credit delivery system. This kind of farming has buried the farmers in debt, damaged the soil, harmed the environment and even endangered the health of farmers and consumers.

Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement cited the benefits of the integrated organic farming which was demonstrated by the KOOL-NE cooperative in Nueva Ecija. The result was a 282-percent increase in profit or an incremental income of P14,000 per hectare. Roberto Versola of Philippine Greens showed the increased yields that come from the organic system of rice intensification (SRI) in the Philippines as well as in other countries:

Country	Yield/tons/hectare Non-SRI	SRI
Philippines		
- High yield area	5.6	7.4
- Low yield area	1.8	5.0
Cambodia	2.5	5.5
Burma	2.3	5.5
Sri Lanka	2.9	6.2

Versola said that while the government was promoting often dysfunctional chemical-based agriculture with a budget of P800 million, it is spending less than P1 million on the SRI technology.

Organizing

Due to the above three urgent concerns, the farmers were driven to organize the first rice summit. They identified what they actually want and need from government rather than passively accept what government wants to give them. The National Small Farmer Rice Council is led by 20 farmer leaders: five each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and one each from the five national small farmer networks of KILOS-SAKA, PAKISAMA, FFF, PKSK, and MASIPAG.

Finally, many are joining the Alyansa Agrikultura, the first broad coalition of small farmers and fisherfolk networks launched last Jan. 21. This covers rice, corn and coconut farmers; livestock and vegetable growers; and small fisherfolk. Together, they number more than one million in more than 50 provinces.

The National Small Rice Farmers' Council will be a significant addition to the emerging farmer power that is being consolidated in Alyansa Agrikultura. This united and strong national small farmers and fisherfolk force can work with the government in joint projects such as technology transfer and anti-smuggling drives, help determine the way government resources are used, and initiate on their own self-reliant programs for their different agriculture sectors. With this farmer power, Philippine agriculture will at long last have bright prospects for the future.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative and former undersecretary of the DA and DTI and chair/secretary of the Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number : 2001-03-SEMP-DepED-BEFP — June 3, 2003
Loan No. 4535/7118 PH
Project Title : CY 2001 Social Expenditure Management Project 1 & 2 (SEMP 1 & 2) 10% Unallocated Portion
Contract Title : Construction and Rehabilitation of School Buildings for Public Elementary and High Schools in NCR and Region III (as one package)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 1 & 2 (SEMP 1 & 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).

2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the construction/rehabilitation of school buildings located in the NCR and Region III as one package.

	School	Scope of Works
a.	V. Mapa HS, Manila	General rewiring of 44 classrooms and improvement of school facilities
b.	Balara ES, Q.C.	Construction of 2 Storey 4 Classrooms & roofing replacement of a 3 Storey building.
c.	Maybunga ES, Pasig City	Rehabilitation of school buildings
d.	Apalit Tech'l HS Apalit, Pampanga	Construction of 2 Storey, 6 Classrooms & 1 Storey, 2 Classrooms.

3. For purposes of this bid, eligible bidders must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.

4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting June 5, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Tel. No. 636-65-43 and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php3,000.00.

5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents. Procurement of Works.

6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee, cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders on July 3, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 18, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

9. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI–June 6 & 13, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Locally Funded Projects

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC) for Locally Funded Project, invites contractor registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project/Location/Description/ Source of Fund	ABC	PCAB/IAC/Equipment
1. Balingasag Port Dev't. Project Poblacion Balingasag, Misamis Oriental Extension of Reinforced Concrete Pier CY 2002 GAA	1,811,682.21	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter, Water Truck; 50T Truck Mounted Crane; K-35 Diesel Pile Hammer; 1T Drop Hammer; Pump Boat; Crane Barge Feeder Barge Service Vehicle
2. Pilacabuan Port Dev't. Project Bolinao, Pangasinan Extension of Seawall CY 2003 GAA	928.766.49	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering Road Grader Backhoe; Dumptruck; Road Roller; Water Truck; Service Vehicle: One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter
3. Sasmuan Port Dev't. Project Sasmuan, Pampanga Improvement of Fish Port CY 2003 GAA	1,559,183.47	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering Dumptruck; Jackhammer; Backhoe; One-Bagger Mixer; Concrete Vibrator; Bar Cutter

Prospective contractors should possess the minimum IAC Classification as described, and had undertaken similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of E.O. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Prequalification/Eligibility Screening Form will be available to interested bidders on June 12-19, 2003 during office hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue Mandaluyong City, upon submission of letter of intent, copy of updated PCAB/IAC License, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the DOTC Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Screening Form and attachments to the same Office not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 23, 2003. The results of the eligibility screening will be available in the same office on June 06, 2003.

Bid/Tender Documents will be available to eligible bidders for issuance on July 06-13, 2003 (8:00am-5:00pm) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 to the DOTC Cashier.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defect and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RENE E. MAGLANQUE
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC)

(PDI--June 6 & 12, 2003)

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V Luna Road, Quezon City

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a. Medicines
b. Medical Supplies

Pre-bid conference will be held on **09:00 a.m. 17 June 2003** at the AFPMC OCG Conference Room, AFP Medical Center, V Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-bid conference on specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROGELIO I SABLAY
Colonel MAC (GSC)
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - June 6 & 12, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Tita Cahatol Pablito has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from Tecla to Tita in the birth certificate of Tecla Cahatol who was born on 23 September 1963 at Macalingan, Lila, Bohol and whose parents are Tranquilino Cahatol and Hermogina Lagria.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 13 June 2003.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - June 6 & 13, 2003)

CANTERS FOR SALE

The following vehicles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

Vehicle	Indicative Price
FUSO Canter aluminum Hi-side	PhP 200,000
FUSO Canter with water tank	PhP 200,000
Mitsubishi Canter Dropside	Php 200,000

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 or Mr. Ariel Matubis at 885-3706. Offers should be sent to the above officers at Building E, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than June 16, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject for approval by company's approving authority.

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rm. 223 Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4191/4713

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors are invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Project : **CBD CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE 1**

Location : Subic Bay Freeport Zone

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The Proposed project shall include securing/applying of all permits, supervision, labor, materials and equipment required for the CBD Construction and Development Package 1.

The proposed CBD Construction and Development Package 1 includes the following:

1. Removal/Demolition and Disposal
2. Earthworks, Subbase and Base course preparation
3. Roads, Pavements and sidewalks and traffic management
4. New and relocation of utilities (sewers, water system and water main, electrical power supplies, street lightings, telecom, catv lines)
5. Landscaping and hardscaping
6. New Traffic Signal Lighting System
7. Drainage System
8. Miscellaneous Structures (Curb and Gutter, Side walk, Road signs)

C. Approved Budget Cost : **Php 33 M (Locally Funded)**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License;

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Engineering "AA"

Kind of Project and Respective Size Ranges
Road, Highway, Pavement, Bridges "LA"

E. Cost of Qualification Statement/Forms

Php 500.00 (non-refundable)

Issuance date: **June 9 to 10, 2003 only from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Rm. 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Statements

June 17, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.

Addressed to: ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman / Sr. D.A. for Support Services
Rm. 205, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the latest provision of Executive Order # 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

- The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 30 & June 6, 2003)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
Edsa Corner Reliance St., Mandaluyong City

Pre-Qualification Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) invites interested contractors to apply for Eligibility and to bid for the:

Contract to Bid/Location No. 1	: Alabang Viaduct Rehabilitation and Upgrading 6 lanes, 1.1 km.
Estimated Construction Cost	: P518,350,000.00
Proposed Contract Duration	: Twelve (12) Months
Scope of Work	: Concrete Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrading
Source of Fund	: Locally Funded
Contract to Bid/Location No. 2	: Calamba – Sto. Tomas Extension, 2 Lanes 7.8 km., including right-of-way
Estimated Construction Cost	: P575,167,000.00
Proposed Contract Duration	: Ten (10) Months
Scope of Work	: Concrete Road Construction with 2 Concrete Bridges to Expressway standards
Source of Fund	: Locally Funded

Application for Eligibility is open to PCAB-licensed contractors with Certificate of Registration and Classification as Large B for Roads and Bridges and has registered with the DPWH Registry of Civil Works Contractors. Contractors not yet registered with the said Registry should obtain their registration forms free of charge from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – Bids and Awards Committee-Technical Working Group Office, 5th Floor DPWH Bldg., Port Area Manila and must submit to the same office the accomplished forms on or before 11 June 2003.

Deadline for submission of Application for Eligibility : **16 June 2003.**

Bid documents will be available only to Eligible bidders for issuance starting on **23 June 2003** upon payment of non-refundable amount of P15,000.00 for Alabang Viaduct Rehabilitation Project and P20,000.00 for Calamba-Sto. Tomas Project.

Place of Issue : Philippine National Construction Corporation
Materials Management Division
Edsa Corner Reliance St., Mandaluyong City

Site Inspection is scheduled on **01 July 2003** and the **Pre-Bid Conference** is set on **07 July 2003** at PNCC Central Office Compound.

Duly accomplished Technical and Price Proposals for the project shall be placed in two (2) separate envelopes and shall be submitted to the above-mentioned Place of Issue not later than **10:00 A.M., 08 August 2003.**

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract and other related matter will be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations.

The PNCC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The PNCC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MIRIAM M. PASETES**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – May 31 & June 6, 2003)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11th Floor BA Lepanto Bldg. 8747 Paseo de Roxas 1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. 892-0293, 892-0263, 810-7161
Fax No.: 892-0346

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-01-002
II. Project title : Jetty Firefighting Facilities Modification Project (Module I)
III. Scope of work : Supply of labor, materials, tools and other necessary equipment to complete the Phase 1 works. Works to include supply and installation of the proposed remote operated fire monitor, relocation of existing fire motor and modification of fire main pipe.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Nine Million Two Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and 47/00 (P9,206,579.47)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : Two Hundred Ten (210) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement:
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Mechanical Work and Water Supply
Size Range : Medium A and Medium A
IX. Similar contracts : Mechanical Works, Water Supply
X. Credit Line / Cash Deposit : Pesos Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven and 95/100 (P920,657.95)
XI. Submission of Letter of Intent and Registration Documents
Date and time : May 30 – June 18, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for verification:
- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
- Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- Taxpayer Identification Number
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the"blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP
- BIR Registration
- Current PCAB License
- DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending case)
- DOLE Certificate of Registration
- SSS Clearance
- Notarized certification by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is:
  - true and correct; and,
  - an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original

XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled in and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : June 2 - 23, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat or PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas, Dos, Mariveles Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of Submission : June 30, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at PPDC Makati office
OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

XIII. Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : until July 16, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat

XIV. Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat

XV. Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P 1,000.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : July 17 - 25, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of Submission : August 15, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat

XVI. **BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Prospective bidders are required to submit the original copy of the Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate, and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification purposes.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount, and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in the Instructions to Bidders.

All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/ are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29 & June 6, 2003)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11th Floor BA Lepanto Bldg. 8747 Paseo de Roxas 1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. 892-0293, 892-0263, 810-7161
Fax No.: 892-0346

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-02-009
II. Project Title : Construction of Shoreline Perimeter Fence and Jetty Gate Improvements
III. Scope of Work : Supply of labor, materials, supervision and necessary equipment for the complete construction of shoreline perimeter fence; construction of footing support for perimeter fence tubular column; supply, fabrication and installation of steel galvanized perimeter fence with barbed wire; construction of outfall barrier; fabrication and installation of steel grilles vehicular gates with steel hollow frame; clearing, grubbing, dispose off-site excavated materials up to the required design elevation; subgrade preparation and bedding; construction of concrete pavement, CHB wall, sidewalk, curbs and gutter; all other related activities.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Two and 94/100 (P5,713,202.94)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement:
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Horizontal Structures and Bridges
Size Range : Medium A
IX. Similar Contracts : Construction of Roads, Pavements and Perimeter Fence
X. Credit Line / Cash Deposit : Pesos Five Hundred Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty and 29/100 (P 571,320.29)
XI. Submission of Letter of Intent and Registration Documents
Date and Time : May 30 - June 18, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for verification:
- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
- Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- Taxpayer Identification Number
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the"blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP
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- Current PCAB License
- DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending cases)
- DOLE Certificate of Registration
- SSS Clearance
- Notarized certification by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is:
  - true and correct; and,
  - an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original

XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled in and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : June 2 - 23, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat or PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of Submission : June 30, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at PPDC Makati office
OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

XIII. Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
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Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat

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Date and Time of Issuance : July 17 - 25, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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Deadline of Submission : August 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat

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Prospective bidders are required to submit the original copy of the Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate, and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification purposes.

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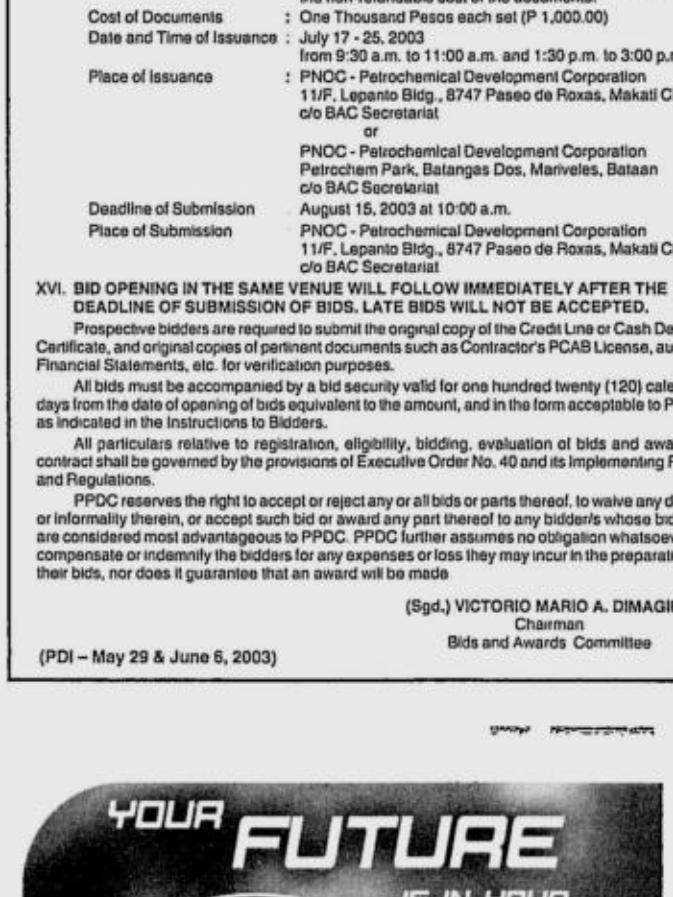
(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29 & June 6, 2003)



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AUCTION

MOTOR VEHICLES; A HUGE QTY. OF (UNUSED) INDUCTION MOTORS; (UNUSED) POWER TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; INDUSTRIAL COMPONENTS, ETC.

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AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
C/O HILON COMPOUND - BO. MAYAPA, CANLUBANG, LAGUNA
AUCTION DATE: TUESDAY 10TH JUNE 2003 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2003
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP20,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

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HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
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Metro Manila, 1632
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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

"I am the resurrection and life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

CLAUDIO DAYRIT HIDALGO

Died in the Grace of the Lord
at the Makati Medical Center at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Paz Rodriguez**; children **Carmela & Tito Bocanegra, Ma. Cristina & Luciano Joson Jr., Claudio Jr. & Monica Tuason, Catherine & Jacobo Nepomuceno & Carlo Rey**; grandchildren **Jake, Patricia, Carla, Isabela, Claudine, Idem, Dia, Chikoy, Miguel, Jackie, Jaco & Luccio**; brothers **Alfonso & Augusto**; sisters **Theresita & Albine Padua**; mother-in-law **Perla O. Vda. de Rodriguez**; brothers and sisters-in-law and relatives, request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on June 8, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Nacional Memorial Homes.

EDMUNDO AQUINO DIZON

Died in the Grace of God
on June 4, 2003.

His loving wife **Irene**, their children **Edlyn, Ivy, Irwin** and **Ian** request the pious reader to include him in their prayers.

His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon City and interment will be on Sunday, June 8, 2003 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK

3F Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Avenue, Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711 to 15. Direct Line 651-0737, 648-2196
Telefax 651-0756

Helping in the Grief of Many People

INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
AMADO SANTOS	June 6	2:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	Holy Gardens Memorial Chapel A Angono, Rizal
AMADO D. ABROGINA, Sr.	June 6	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park Calamba City	Happy Valley Chapel Canlubang, Laguna
JAMES R. DELOS REYES	June 7	9:00 A.M.	Holy Gardens Valley Memorial Park Antipolo City	62 Acacia St. Fort Bonifacio Cembo, Makati City

www.holygardens.com
E-mail address: sales@holygardens.com

Her children rise up and praise her;
Her husband too extols her... (Prov. 31:28)

FLORENCIA BERMEJO NACHURA

from Catbalogan, Samar

Died in the peace of the Lord
on June 5, 2003 at the age of 87.

Her children **Cong. Antonio Eduardo & Chit, Rene & Corinne, Leah & Cecilio, Oscar & Ara, Arthur & Elma, Nestor & Evette**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and relatives request pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway St., New Manila, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Church on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

Burial will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Oscar Santiago Dakudao Villaroman III

Died in the Grace of Our Lord
May 30, 2003 at Lanang, Davao City

Orsan joined his Creator at the age of 18. His bereaved grandparents, Dr. Santiago Dakudao, Jr. (†) and Marietta Ebro; Oscar T. Villaroman and Pilar Salcedo (†); parents, Dr. Oscar S. Villaroman, Jr. and Marisa E. Dakudao; sister Vian Marie and brother Antonio Santiago; relatives and friends request fervent prayer for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus St., Davao City. Interment will be on June 7, 2003 in Tugbok District, Davao City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Cosmopolitan.

MANUEL SALITA VICTORIA

September 1, 1946 - June 4, 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 56.

His loving wife **Madeleine**; children **Monina, Boyet, Joanne**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel L, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation of his remains at the La Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Quezon City follow after the 1:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, June 8, 2003.

FEJIDO L. LOZANO

peacefully joined his Creator
on May 23, 2003
in Columbia, Maryland, USA

His body lies in state
at Viewing Chapel #1 & 2
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday,
June 7, 2003 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A with specialty on Electrical Facilities for the Upgrading of the Electrical Facilities of the Dumoy System Water Resource Facilities for Sump No. 1 and 19 units production wells nos. 1 to 19, this City.

Approved Budget for the Contract P3,410,193.20

Eligibility requirements are available at the BAC-B c/o The office of the General Manager starting June 2, 2003 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before **June 16, 2003.**

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 per package starting June 23, 2003.

Pre-bidding is set on **July 11, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on **July 14, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, BAC-B

(PDI - May 30 and June 6, 2003)

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Excellent approaches on how schools can redesign their curriculum to meet the current demands of the business world.
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Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, President – Philippine Normal University *

10 **Advocacy in Education: Espousing Worthwhile Causes for Social Change**
Engaging strategies to make schools more relevant and develop a social character through advocacy development
Prof. Ramon "Bong" Osorio, President, International Association of Business Communicators and Campaigns Advocacy

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"Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you have made my destiny secure..."
Psalm 16:5

HERMENEGILDO R. CABILAO

of Tugbok, Davao City and Pasig City

Co-Founder and Co-Owner
Ace Foods, Inc., Asset Marketing, Ram Foods, Inc.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 4, 2003 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **AIDA C. ENRIQUEZ**; children **ROBERTO, RODELIA, REBECCA**; children-in-law **MARLENE Z. MOLANO, THOMAS C. ZANDUETA, ROMALINO G. VALDEZ**; grandchildren **IZA, CHICO, NIKKI, DAVID, JAMES, ALEXIS, ERIKA, MARTIN, MARIEL**; sisters **FORTUNATA TOLOSA (†), ESPERANZA COMILANG (†)**; and brother-in-law **EFREN C. ENRIQUEZ** join other relatives and friends in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

There was a man who lived by His perfect Grace.
Although incomparable to His, the man's love never failed.
And in life and in death, his faith remains.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Funeral Mass is on June 8, Sunday, at 8:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Imaging, print industries kick off 4-day Graphic Expo 2003

SHOWCASING new design technologies and tools, the imaging and print industry's 4-day "Graphic Expo 2003" at Philtrade is on and will run up to Saturday (June 7).

Designed to upgrade the creative skills of photographers, digital artists, graphic arts service providers, print and IT professionals, webmasters, and multimedia specialists and animators, Graphic Expo showcases new technologies in digital photography, imaging, large format printing, publishing/video editing software, color management, and design-oriented workshops.

The show kicked off Wednesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Philippine Daily Inquirer director Dennis Valdes, Hewlett-Packard Philippines country manager Rose Hwan, Fujifilm YKL general manager Robert Lim, Zone V Camera Club president Manny Inumerable, Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines president Jun Perez, and eArt Philippines president Francisco Doplon.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to sponsors and winners of competitions in digital art, digital imaging, and animation, and of the Philippine Internet Review Book Cover Contest.

There was also a parade of imaging and printing products and services that ushered in the welcome reception. Graphic Expo 2003 comprises an exhibit and a seminar series. Seminar topics are all relevant to industry workflow processes and software mastery such as Photoshop 7.0, Advanced Photoshop Techniques, PDF Workflow for Print Production, Designing a Dynamic Logo System, Editing Essentials in Final Cut Pro 3.0, Flash Cartooning, Color Management & Scanning Techniques, Inside Freehand MX, What's New with Corel Draw 11, Design Essential for Desktop Publishing, Basics of Typography, Creating 3D Visualization with 3D Studio Max 5, Visual Effects with Combustion, Flash for Corporate Presentation, Audio-Visual Presentation from Script to Screen.

Integrating Illustrator & Photoshop, Designing Type with Illustrator, Professional retouching Techniques, Creating Explosive Web Graphics with Fireworks, Energizing Flash MX Projects with Action Script, Web Animation Essentials, Tools, and Techniques, and The Making of Web Videos.

The seminar series are being conducted by mostly Adobe and Macromedia-certified and Apple Solutions experts and US-trained instructors who are industry practitioners themselves.

On the other hand, the exhibits showcase new printing and imaging equipment, hardware, tools, and latest state-of-the-art technologies of such key industry players as Epson, Hewlett-Packard, FujiFilm YKL, Senco Link Technologies, Sony, Canon, and Gakken Philippines Corp., among others. Entrance in the exhibit is free of charge.

UNILAB ONE OF ASIA'S BEST EMPLOYERS

United Laboratories was one of 10 Philippine corporations chosen as one of Asia's Best Employers 2003 in a search undertaken by the US human resource consulting firm Hewitt Associates in cooperation with the Management Association of the Philippines and a Philippine business newspaper. Unilab chair-CEO Joselito D. Campos Jr. (third left) holds the trophy presented by Vice President Teofisto Guingona at ceremonies held recently at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati. Also shown are, from left, Hewitt managers Susan Rivera-Manalo and Ravi Virmani, MAP president Edward Ferelra, and Business World director and former Prime Minister Cesar Virata. Unilab was cited for its 'bayanihan' culture of working together, and its deep focus on people.

FASTEST DRILLER

Winston Ampon (center) of Toolwind Parts and Services receives a special Black & Decker prize for being the fastest driller at a record 18 seconds during the dealers' night at the Puerta Real Gardens in Intramuros, Manila. Black & Decker also launched the ongoing 'Tool Mania' that offers seven sets of power tools at 10 to 17-percent discounts at selected hardware stores nationwide until June 30. The dealers' night was attended by the company's top 100 dealers and the 8 new hardware stores that have joined their ranks as distributors of Black & Decker and DeWalt products. Flanking Ampon are Black & Decker key accounts manager Rogelio Banta Jr. and account manager Chris delos Reyes (left and right, respectively).

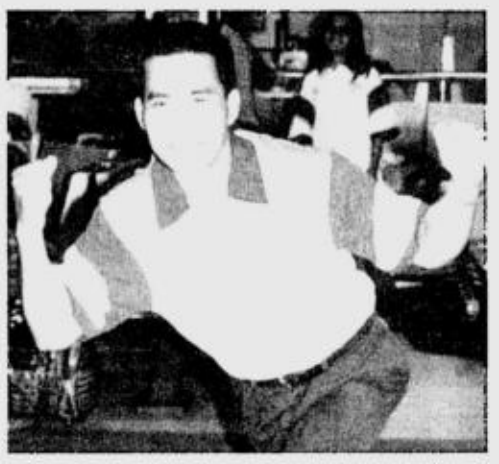
Bowling Challenge at SM

OVER the past 10 months, hundreds of participants have competed in the Second SM Bowling Cup in the center finals at the SM Bowling Centers at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City North-Edsa, and SM City Cebu.

The 120 finalists competed in the 3-day National Finals which ran May 30 at the SM Megamall, May 31 at SM City Fairview, and June 1 at SM City North-Edsa. The prizes were something to literally get bowled over: P100,000 for the national champion, P50,000 for the first runner up, and P25,000 for the second runner up, each winning a trophy.

Other prizes included a 29-inch Sony TV for the perfect game winner, two 21-inch Sony TVs for the high game winners in the male and female categories, and another set of 21-inch Sony TVs for high-game winners (male and female) with handicaps.

Many of the participants had been hitting the lanes with hours of practice in preparation for the finals. Participants such as business executives Rovi Sonza, Nancy del Castillo, Nestor Annonuevo, Roger and Josephine Balanay, as well as engineer Caloy Perez, opthalmologist Pros Furrel, and student Reinier Pasquin.



ROGER Balanay, a customer service officer at Kimberly Clark Philippines, became champion for three months during the Second SM Bowling Cup.

NANCY del Castillo, manager of Moonlight Express, now has an average score of 160 from 125 due to her practices.

NESTOR Annonuevo, personnel manager at Diamond Star Agro Product, has enjoyed bowling for five years now.

ROVI Sonza, president of Angstorm Engineering, finalist of the SM Bowling Cup, practices bowling four times a week at the SM Megamall.

REINIER Pasquin, a first-year college student at Informatics, idolizes Paen Nepomuceno and Biboy Rivera.

JOSEPHINE Balanay, a manager at Continental Temic, finds bowling interesting and fun.

'The Faithful' concert at the Podium

SOME of the country's best classical musical talents will gather at the Podium for "The Faithful", a concert today, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the mall's second floor activity center.

Presented by Musicworx, a Christian music organization whose purpose is to share God's love through music, "The Faithful" is topbilled by tenor Nolyn Cabahug, violinist Junior Seraza, pianist Jupiter Vidad, and Musicworx talents Josh Villanueva, tenor, Evelyn Serata, forte soprano, and Edith Verde and Ygioonne Black, mezzo sopranos.

"The Faithful" repertoire consists of a pleasant mix of classical, pop, broadway, and contemporary Christian music such as "To Where You Are", "The Prayer", "Tonight Medley", "Love Changes Everything", "The Love I Found in You", and "The Faithful Medley". This glorious mix shows that no matter how different the music genres may be, or how each lyric is expressed, music can be used to uplift, inspire, and encourage.

JOANNA Villanueva, Evelyn Serata, Edith Verde, Jupiter Vidad and Josh Villanueva of Musicworx Ministries Inc.

TENOR Nolyn Cabahug

VIOLINIST Junior Saraza.

SGV Foundation, DTI hold Entrepreneur of the Year award

THE ENTREPRENEUR of the Year (EOY) Award, regarded as the "Oscars" of international business, will be conducted in the Philippines by the SGV Foundation and the Department of Trade and Industry together with partner agencies starting this year.

Lawyer Rodolfo O. Reyes, EOY Philippines program coordinator, identified the EOY Philippines partner agencies as the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Stock Exchange, and the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award, which is now held in over 40 countries, was launched in the United States in 1986 by Ernst and Young, a global professional services firm. Previous winners include Michael Dell of Dell Computers, Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com, Howard Schultz of Starbucks, Pierre Omidyar of eBay Inc., and Steve Case of America Online.

The first-ever Philippine Entrepreneur of the Year will represent the country and compete with other EOY awardees of other countries for the 2004 World Entrepreneur of the Year award in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

A business owner or founder who is primarily responsible for the growth of his or her company and is still active in top management is eligible for the award. The business must have been operating for at least two years.

The categories in the EOY Philippines are Master Entrepreneur, Socially Responsible Entrepreneur, Emerging Entrepreneur, Young Entrepreneur and an Industry-Specific Entrepreneur. This year, the industry specific category will focus on information and communications technology. The Philippine Entrepreneur of the Year who will represent the country in Monte Carlo next year will be chosen from among the winners of these categories.

The EOY Award is in line with the government's focus on fostering entrepreneurship and grooming local entrepreneurs to take on the world market. It recognizes the most successful and innovative entrepreneurs in a country and their role in nation building.

Reyes said that as the EOY program brings to the public's attention the role models for aspiring entrepreneurs, it also provides a forum for sharing and learning about successful strategies, processes and innovations.

"A survey of previous awardees showed that the award increased recognition of their business, boosted employee morale, expanded their network with other entrepreneurs and improved sales," said Reyes.

A highly distinguished panel of independent judges composed of leaders from government, business and academic organizations will evaluate nominees in areas such as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their business and community.

Nomination period is up to Aug. 20. Self-nominations are encouraged, as are those from suppliers, customers, and others dealing closely with the entrepreneur. For more information and nominations forms, call 894-8376, office of the EOY program coordinator, or e-mail eoy.info@ph.ey.com.

ProductFILES

Starbucks new flavor

COFFEE guzzlers can look up to the latest flavor sensation as Starbucks launches the Mocha Coconut Frappuccino ice blended coffee. Inspired by its Hawaiian origins, the new flavor is sure to transport taste buds to a magic moment.

Mocha Coconut Frappuccino is an indulgent treat of rich chocolate and real toasted coconut blended with coffee and ice, then topped with whipped cream, chocolate drizzle and more toasted coconut flakes. A taste of sheer indulgence developed by Starbucks partners from the island paradise of Hawaii, the tropical flavor of Mocha Coconut Frappuccino rewards customers with a summer taste sensation with that magic ingredient of delicious toasted coconut.

Mocha Coconut Frappuccino is available at all Starbucks outlets until June 30 or until supplies last.

BTS Clips

Abap bookfair

MEMBERS of the Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions have selected their booths at the 7th Academic Bookfair slated July 14 to 18, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City. Abap, organizer of the five-day bookfair, is offering 56 booths with priority choice given to members. Unsold booths will be offered to non-members, and this includes computer companies and software dealers. The bookfair's theme is "Of Books and Bytes: Connecting People, Information and Technology." For inquiries, call Lydia Wenceslao at telefax 925-4572.

UA&P SMN seminars

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific School of Management's Continuing Management Education (CME) unit offers three day-long seminars this June: Accounting for Non-Accountants from June 4 to 6, Developing Managerial Excellence from June 10 to 12, and Business Writing and Communication Skills from June 17 to 19. Accounting for Non-Accountants is CME's longest-running seminar. Developing Managerial Excellence is a new program for high-potential young women managers. Business Writing and Communication Skills is for those who wish to become effective writers and speakers in business presentations. For details, call 634-2834, 637-0912 extension 241, e-mail cme@uap.edu.ph or visit www.uap.edu.ph/smn.

Seminar on Forklifts

KAIZEN Management Systems Inc. (www.kaizen-mgtsys.com) holds a seminar on "Improving the Operating Economy, Maintenance and Safety of Forklifts" on June 6 at the Traders Hotel Manila. The seminar will focus on techniques for a more productive and safe operation and maintenance of forklifts. Forklift operators, technicians and mechanics are invited. For details, call Frenzie at 687-7059 to 60 or e-mail at blukaizen@vasia.com.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Touch Mobile conquers Cebu

FOR THE second time within a single year, Touch Mobile invaded Cebu City with a star-studded show to celebrate its expanded presence in the Queen City of the South with the opening of six new cell sites in the province. Thousands of Cebuanos trooped to SM City recently to witness another exciting celebration as Touch Mobile affirmed its stronghold of the city as one of the brand's most important markets in the country.

Touch Mobile's celebration, dubbed "Ceboom na Boom", started as early as mid-morning with popular stars Aiza Seguerra, Arnel Ignacio, Onemig Bondoc and Leandro Muñoz visiting Touch Mobile dealer outlets for autograph signing. The stars then hit the streets of Cebu City with a colorful and lively motorcade.

At the mall, the Touch Mobile "Ceboom na Boom" show featured the brand's celebrity endorsers Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales. The show's audience of both young and old eagerly participated in the Touch Mobile games hosted by TV host Arnel Ignacio.

Adding luster to the star-filled show were TV host and celebrity Boy Abunda, who talked about Touch Mobile's unique karaoke, voice messaging and voice info features, while popular young actors Onemig Bondoc and Leandro Muñoz rendered special song numbers. Singer Aiza Seguerra did a live rendition of her hit song "Pagdating ng Panahon" to stirring rounds of applause.

An after-show feature, and what looked like the most awaited part of the celebration was the kilometer-long line of fans that built up at the entertainment area of SM City. Fans happily awaited their turn to have their newly purchased Touch Mobile Value Sim packs autographed by Aga, Charlene, Boy, Arnel, Onemig, Leandro, and Aiza.

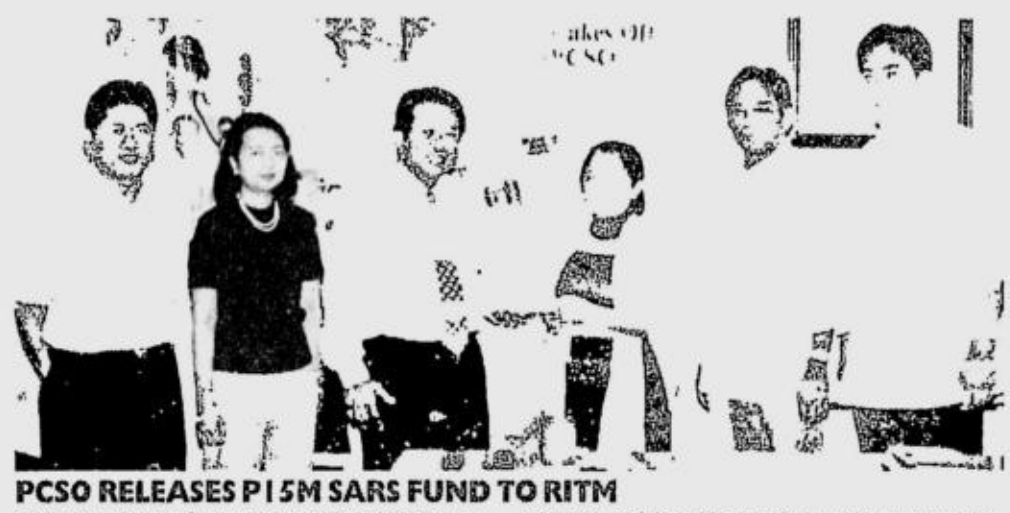
The Cebu conquest is part of Touch Mobile's aggressive network rollout program in the provinces to banner its proven nationwide coverage. And acknowledging the ever warm reception and the growing patronage of Touch Mobile by the Cebuanos were no less than Globe Telecom's senior vice president Gil Genio and Touch Mobile head of acquisition Joyce Capacillo, who personally led the Globe Telecom-Touch Mobile Visayas and Cebu team in the celebration.

With its low per-minute call rates, clarity of calls, strong signals, speed in text messaging, unparalleled voice value added services, and proven nationwide coverage, and SIM packs for only P170, Touch Mobile continues to be the brand that provides the best value today.

BOY Abunda, Charlene Gonzales, Aga Muhlach and Touch Mobile's Joyce Capacillo.

SWISS AMBASSADOR VISITS INQUIRER

Last May 9, Swiss ambassador to the Philippines Lise Favre (second from left) visited the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Ambassador Favre, who was officially appointed last year, was warmly welcomed by Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto, publisher Isagani Yambot and columnist Bambi Harper.



PCSO RELEASES P15M SARS FUND TO RITM

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) general manager Rosario Uriarte hands over the 15 million check to Dr. Remigio Olveda of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) for the upgrading of their facilities to effectively identify and treat Sars cases in the country. Looking on, (from left) are Dr. Rodolfo Villanco and Dr. Beatrice Quiambao of RITM, and Jose Magsumbol and lawyer Raul Ancheta of PCSO. The P15M donation is part of the 1 billion-peso standby Sars fund pledged by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo allocated from the PCSO Charity Fund. Also scheduled for release are the 64M for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and 100M for the Department of Health.

FRESSAN BAKERY'S NEW BRANCH

Fressan Bakery recently sealed a franchise agreement to formalize the opening of its newest branch in FTI Sunshine Mall, Bicutan. A fast-growing bakery shop with 14 branches nationwide, Fressan offers a quality line of freshly and deliciously baked products made from the finest ingredients that suit the distinctive taste of its bread-loving market. Photo shows (from left) Edward Aguilera (franchisee); Edzel Villanueva (business development consultant); and Kristina Calinawan (marketing supervisor).

'Road Trip' explores the Great North

SUMMER may be over but things are still heating up on "Road Trip," the travel show of the wacky Quizon brothers Eric and Epy, aired every Sunday, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. over RPN 9. The episode airing on June 8 features "Camp North 1, Explore 2003: The North Philippines' Summer Quest," the hottest and arguably, the most unique escapade of the summer.

Camp North 1 is literally, a road trip participated in by dozens of tourists and their families. Over fifty cars comprised the Camp North caravan that started at Clark, Pampanga and headed to various scenic spots in Northern Luzon. Special "Road Trip" co-host Isa Litton, a ramp and commercial model, lets viewers in on all the exciting details and interesting sidelights of "Camp North 1, Explore 2003.".

Definitely a real trouper, Isa goes beyond the call of co-host duty as she would do anything to give "Road Trip" fans a taste of the action. She charms even the most reluctant of interviewees. She reports on the proceedings from a moving motorcycle. She delivers her spiels under the heat of the scorching sun. From the malls of Tarlac, to the beaches of La Union, to the Church of Manaog, Isa remains a tireless gal, full of energy.

"I never thought I'd be having this much fun," Isa says with enthusiasm. "I'm seeing sights I wouldn't normally see. The Philippines indeed has a lot to offer. It's a vacation of a lifetime!" Isa says of Camp North 1.

And where was Eric and Epy in the midst of all the action? Tune in to Road Trip this Sunday to find out.

Road Trip is produced by Kaizz Ventures Inc. in cooperation with the Department of Tourism and in partnership with Smart Addict, Nokia Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Philstar.com. "Road Trip" is on the web. Log on to www.roadtrip.com.ph.

GLOBAL BRANDS GRAND DRAW

Global Brands, the country's leading manufacturer and distributor of construction chemicals, concluded its nationwide promo, the Super Vulca Seal & Rugby Pares-Pares, Doble-Doble Panalo promo, with more lucky customers winning fabulous cash prizes. Josie Bumanlag received P500,000 in the grand draw. Three more customers received P100,000 each for the major prizes and another three won P50,000. Photo shows (from left) Jojo Reyes, senior product manager; Josie Bumanlag, grand prize winner; and Ed Dela Vega, regional sales maanger (North Luzon).

18TH PAC ROADSHOW AT 4AS

The 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) recently began roadshow presentations to top advertising organizations to intensify efforts to enlist participation for the upcoming AdCongress slated in Baguio City from Nov. 19 to 22. The first roadshow presentation was hosted by 4As at its general membership meeting recently. Among the industry pillars present at the presentation were (from left) Socky Pitargue, PC&V; Billy Rockwell, Charisms; Susan Dimacali, BBDO-Guerrero; Dodie Lucas, Roadrunner Productions; guest speaker John Lesaca; March Ventosa, Hemisphere-Leo Burnett; and Miguel Ramos, Aspac Advertising.

CENTURY PARK BRINGS BACK LADY CHANTEUSES

The Century Park Hotel brings back its lady chanteuses for nightly performances at the Top of the Century. Show starts at 9 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. In photo (from left) Martina Hernandez (Mondays), Caren Molina (Tuesdays), Teresa Garcia (Wednesdays), Malou Manabat (Thursdays), April Ramos (Fridays) and Anne Castro (Saturdays). For inquiries and reservations call the Century Park Hotel at tel. nos. (632) 528-5837 or (632) 528-2739.

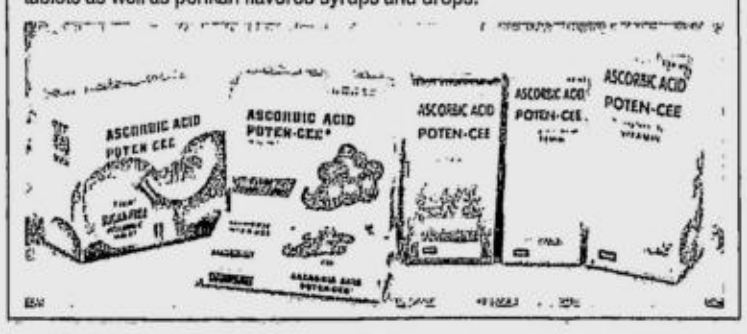
ProductFILES

Sunkist adds more flavors to juice line

SUNKIST, with over 100 years of fruit growing expertise, brings you Sunkist Lemonade and Sunkist Tutti Frutti in Tetra Brik Aseptic 250ml Slim and Tetra Wedge Aseptic 200 ml (fun pack) packages. Specially made for kids, Sunkist Tutti Fruitti has a yummy bubble gum taste while Sunkist Lemonade has a citrus flavor for kids and teens. Only the real goodness of the choicest, sun ripened and hand picked lemons and fresh fruits go into each Sunkist Lemonade and Sunkist Tutti Fruitti fruit drink pack. Both drinks have no preservatives so you can enjoy a truly refreshing vitamin-packed drink that is naturally Sunkist.

Poten-Cee vitamin C tablet and syrup

PASCUAL Laboratories Inc. is encouraging its consumers to take Poten-Cee vitamin C daily to enhance and strengthen their immune system. It is important to maintain a regular Potencee habit, to help build body resistance against any infection such as colds and build protection against harsh pollutants in the environment. Potencee comes in easy-to-swallow candy-coated and sugar-free tablets as well as ponkan flavored syrups and drops.



Clips

EduWorld: 1st pre-school franchise

CLASSES will open on June 9, as such, Sacred Heart School is busy preparing their 12 branches for their students. Sacred Heart has established EduWorld Inc., its franchising arm, to offer its tested system. Out of 12 schools around 9 are into franchised operations. SHS, established in 1968 and the pioneer in Kumon method of teaching, is now accepting enrollees for school year 2003 to 2004. It is well known for its high quality pre-school education taught in various levels, and has a staff of well trained teachers. SHS has 12 branches in Malabon, Shangri-La, Ortigas Ave., Forbes Park, Dela Rosa, Legaspi Village, Sablo, San Lorenzo, Glorietta, Sun Valley, Parañaque, Tagaytay, Cebu, Bacolod and soon to open at The Fort. For inquiries call 813-0670.

Festival Supermall's 5th Anniversary

IT'S A splash of a bash this June as Festival Supermall celebrates their 5th anniversary. For a minimum purchase of P100 inclusive of a medium Pepsi at participating Food Junction tenants from May 31 to June 29, you get a chance to pick a prize. Free rides at Pixie Forest and X-Site with Festival Supermall's Five for Rides! Just buy P50 worth of regular rides until June 29 and get P10 vouchers for your next ride. Free tickets and popcorn are to be given away at Five Fabulous Treats, just buy the promo meal or treat at the Festival Theater Bar until June 29. Dine at Festival's fine dining restaurants from June 13 to 15 and, for a minimum purchase of P500, you can be your favorite hero. And on June 14 and 15, groove to the guitar rhythms of the Acoustic Dream concert from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Chefs Avenue. Come and experience a whole lot of fun and excitement at Festival Supermall.

SWISS MISS HOT CHOCOLATE MIXES SPONSORS 'REVITALIZE'

Swiss Miss Fat Free and Swiss Miss Diet Hot Chocolate Mixes recently sponsored 'Revitalize', HerWord.com's talk show where women can open up and feel comfortable about themselves, their bodies and their need for a healthy lifestyle. The event offered an exciting opportunity for participants to chat with experts on issues concerning health, fitness and beauty. In photo: product manager Mitz de Leon (extreme right) of Fly Ace Corp., the exclusive importer of Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate Mixes in the Philippines with the event's guest speaker, TV host, Health and Fitness expert and columnist Tina Aboitiz-Juan (3rd from left) and the Swiss Miss ladies. Other variants of the Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate Mixes include Swiss Miss Milk Chocolate and Marshmallows and Swiss Miss Rich Chocolate Hot Cocoa Mix, available in all leading supermarkets and grocery stores.

BUSINESS

AUV prices to go up as new rules take effect

By Doris C. Dumlao and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

STARTING June 9, prices of popular Asian utility vehicles are expected to go up by at least P400,000 as the new rules removing tax exemptions on AUVs finally take effect.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Pulido-Tan said the finance department had no choice but to implement Revenue Regulation 4-2003 after the Senate failed to pass an excise tax bill.

"By June 9, it will be effective. But remember, there is a transitory provision in the regulation," Tan said.

"I think we were able to work it out in such a way that we are able to phase it in. Until such time that the law is passed, then we will just have to implement the regulation," she added.

RR 4-2003 imposes specific requirements on seat size, headroom and legroom on vehicles seeking to avail of tax-free perks granted to vehicles with a seating capacity for at least 10 passengers. All AUVs would lose their tax perks because the jump seats in their back compartment would not comply with the new standards under RR 4-2003.

Without the tax perks, AUVs would have to pay 35 percent excise (with an engine size of 1,601 to 2,000 cc for gasoline and 1,801 to 2,300 cc for diesel) and 50 percent (for engine size of 2,001 to 2,700 cc for gasoline and 2,301 to 3,000 cc for diesel).

Tan said the implementation of the new regulations would pump in P8 billion in additional revenue each year, an amount that the government was willing to give up in exchange for a new automobile excise tax law.

Aside from lifting the tax exemption on AUVs, the new law on automobile taxation would shift the tax base from engine displacement to manufacturer's value.

"We are not imposing any new rates. We are simply defining again what is a 10-seater," Tan said.

Sen. Serge Osmeña, meanwhile, said the Senate was nearing a compromise with the government on the proposed reforms on vehicle excise taxes.

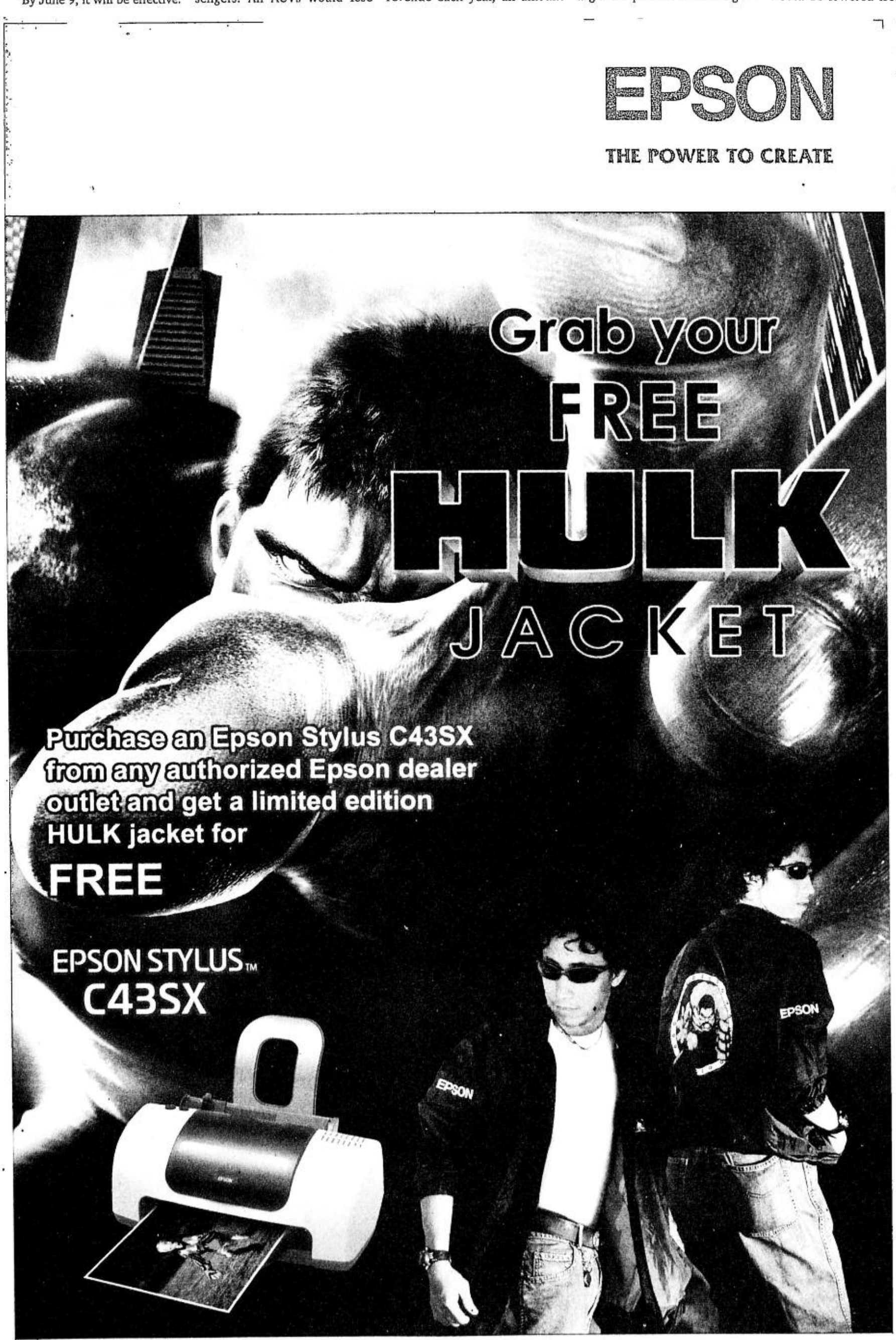
Osmeña said the lawmakers and the officials from the Departments of Finance and Trade and Industry were close to consenting to an increase in the floor price and reduction in the base tax that would ensure a minimal tax hike on AUVs.

Under the planned compromise deal, Osmeña said that the minimum price would be increased from P500,000 to P600,000 while the tax rate would be lowered from 3 percent to 2 percent.

Osmeña said his main goal in pushing for a compromise was to shift the tax burden in the vehicle industry from the middle class to upper crust buyers with vehicles worth more than P2 million to be charged 100 percent tax.

As much as 80 percent of the total auto industry sales performance belongs to commercial vehicles.

Half of all commercial vehicles are AUVs, while passenger cars account for only 20 percent.



Foreign firms urged to invest in natural gas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Department has urged international gas companies to invest in the large-scale development of the country's natural gas industry.

Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios made the appeal during the recently concluded World Gas Conference 2003 held in Tokyo.

De Dios said during the conference that there are opportunities to invest in the infrastructure needed to bring the natural gas from the Malampaya field off northwest Palawan to potential markets.

These infrastructure projects include the construction of pipeline networks for bulk and distribution deliveries, terminals for liquefied natural gas and refilling stations for vehicles that run on compressed natural gas (CNG).

Held every three years by the International Gas Union, the World Gas Conference 2003 was attended by 4,800 delegates, including those from international organizations, energy ministers, energy related fora, and researchers from private firms, universities and institutions.

The conference coincided with a trade exhibition where 230 companies from 40 countries were featured.

The DOE added that its team who went to Tokyo was able to meet separately with gas companies from Europe, the United States and Japan to convince them to invest in the Philippines.

De Dios said in an earlier interview that the Development Bank of the Philippines was allocating part of its P5-billion program facility for a project promoting natural gas-run buses.

Pre-need sales drop to P10.6B

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DECLINE in the demand of overseas Filipino workers for pre-need plans has led to a 22.3-percent drop in the sales of pre-need companies during the first four months of the year, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SEC data showed that sales of pre-need plans based on gross contract price fell to P10.59 billion from P13.63 billion posted in the same period last year, with pension plans recording the biggest sales drop.

Total sales of education plans also declined, while sales of life or memorial plans surged during the same period.

Emil Aquino, SEC director for the non-traditional securities and instruments, said the fall in sales, particularly of pension plans, may be attributed to the global uncertainties surrounding the Iraq war earlier this year that affected the demand of OFWs.

"They (pension plans) cater largely to OFWs so I guess during the first quarter they were the ones gravely affected," Aquino said.

According to the SEC data, pension plans sales during the first four months this year plunged 36.51 percent to P5.184 billion from P8.166 billion. Education plan sales dipped 6.15 percent to P4.517 billion from P4.81 billion.

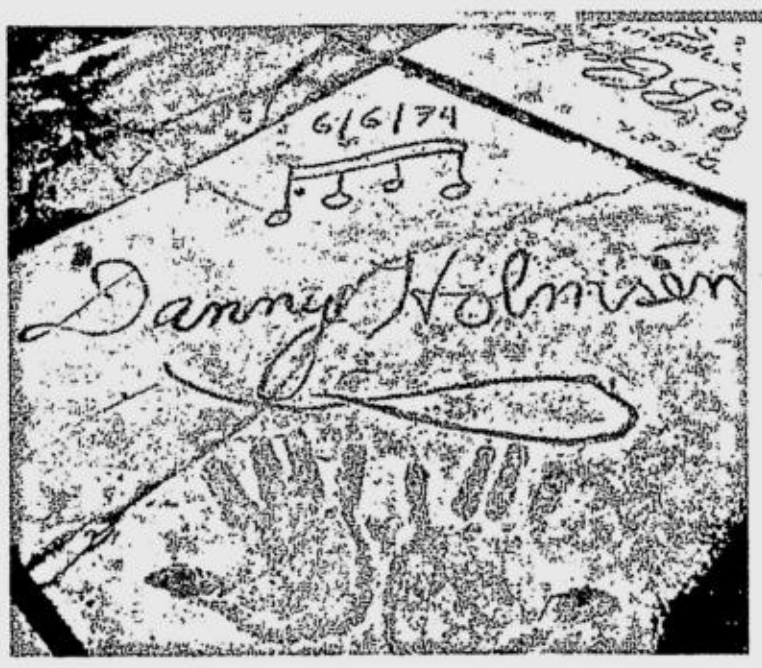
Sales of memorial plans, on the other hand, grew 36.41 percent to P888.89 million from P651 million.

Based on initial collections, pension plans sales fell 34.78 percent to P475 million from P728 million while education plans posted a less than one percent decline to P434 million.

In terms of number of plans sold, pension plans experienced a 25.66-percent drop to 89,300 plans from 120,130 plans.

Pre-need companies also sold 19.5 percent less education plans or a total of 55,691 for the period while the number of life plans sold surged 57.88 percent to 35,766.

Philam Plans Inc. sold the most pre-need plans during the period based on the gross contract price, coming in first in sales of pension plans and second in the sale of education plans, next to Prudentialife Philippines Inc.



HOLMSEN'S palm prints and signature at the Sampaguita garden. JOAN BONDOC

Holmsen 'had a bad heart but he was a good man'

By Marinel R. Cruz

FILM director and composer Danny Holmsen had a heart condition and diabetes and he hardly went out so he could keep out of trouble, according to his friends and relatives. But trouble came to him at home.

"I know Danny was a diabetic and that he had a bad heart, but I never imagined that he would die this way," said actress Barbara Perez Tuesday night at Holmsen's wake in the chapel of the Sampaguita Pictures compound in Quezon City.

"He was one of the very few people I knew who kept to themselves," Perez added. "It's very unfair that he must have felt so much fear before he died."

She said that instead of going out, Holmsen and she talked on the phone for hours.

"He used to call me at night," she said. "He loved to talk. I guess he was lonely. I would usually request that we hang up after burning the phone lines for three hours."

Holmsen, 72, wrote songs and directed a number of movies for Sampaguita Pictures in the '60s and '70s. On Monday, Holmsen and a

HOLMSEN/ C2

DID YOU KNOW...

MTV Philippines VJ **KC Montero** is playing his role to the hilt as surrogate dad to **Heaven**, the six-year-old son of his girlfriend **Geneva Cruz**. KC and Heaven have been having a good time lately bonding as "father" and son. They were together in Boracay during the Holy Week. When Geneva is busy, KC looks after Heaven. He even brings the boy to his Industry Lounge on Filmore Street in Pasay City. Last week, KC and Heaven were seen playing at the lounge even when it was nearly midnight.

'Meteor Garden' buries competition

/C3

CRUZ AND DAUGHTER Angelina

De Leon shoots Sunshine

/C2

GARCIA

King of the road, king of the airwaves

/C8

OPRAH SAYS NEVER

"People say, 'Never say never'," talk show Oprah Winfrey, wearing big heart-shaped diamond earrings, tells a sold-out crowd of 2,600 at the Washington State Convention Center during her "Live Your Best Life Tour" seminar. "But when it comes to politics, I can say, 'Never'." AP

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Mother Lily ready to start 'Mano Po' sequel

THE AWARD-WINNING top-grosser in the December 2002 Metro Manila Film Festival, "Mano Po," has inspired Regal Entertainment's **Lily Monteverde** to produce a sequel this early.

Mother Lily recently finalized the casting for "Mano Po 2," which she also intends to enter in the next MMFF in December.

The only member of the original cast who will also be in the sequel is **Kris Aquino**, who won three best supporting actress trophies for her performance in the Joel Lamangan movie–from the MMFF, Star Awards and Famas.

Susan Roces will lead the cast of "Mano Po 2," with **Christopher de Leon, Lorna Tolentino** and **Judy Ann Santos.** The cast members will sign their contract with Regal at noon today at Mother Lily's Imperial Palace Hotel on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

"Mano Po" romped off with 12 awards in the 2002 filmfest, including best picture, best director for Lamangan, best actress for **Ara Mina** and best actor for **Eddie Garcia.**

Also in the original cast were **Maricel Soriano, Richard Gomez, Jay Manalo, Eric Quizon, Gina Alajar, Amy Austria, Tirso Cruz III** and newcomer **Carlo Maceda.**

De Leon's 'Dare Me'

ACE photographer Jun de Leon remains a favorite of celebrities. Ask **Sharon Cuneta**, Kris Aquino, **Regine Velasquez**, Maricel Soriano, **Cesar Montano** and a host of other celebrities in show biz, society and politics, and chances are, De Leon is on top of their list.

De Leon's trained eye, first and foremost, is the reason he is the photorapher of choice. He is a known perfectionist. During fashion pictorials, he sees everything through his lens, a stray strand of hair, a crease in the clothes, a

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

beautiful half smile.

Petit Monde is one of the many who believe in De Leon's passion for fashion perfection. He has been doing its fashion pictorials, from the very first one in 1990 to the present.

"*Tito* Jun has always made our pictorials fun and exciting," says **Dorothy Tan Tionson** of Petit Monde. "Work is hard, but it's always a learning experience for our team. Our out of the country pictorials, when we have to bring everything, from clothes to props and models, are all made easy because *Tito* Jun always makes them so."

Petit Monde and De Leon have worked with star models **Carmina Villaroel, Ana Roces, Jennifer Sevilla, Maricel Laxa, Claudine Barretto, Rica Peralejo, Aiza Marquez, Antoinette Taus,** as well as the current Petit Monde endorsers–**Sunshine Cruz, Anne Curtis, Jodi Santamaria** and **Cheska Garcia.**

To celebrate its more than a decade relationship with the photographer, Petit Monde will have a photo exhibit called "Dare Me," featuring De Leon's latest works using a new medium, acetate on prints. The photos are part of the pictorial for the new Petit Monde collection, which was shot entirely in Bohol province.

The exhibit, featuring poster-sized images of Sunshine, Anne, Jodi and Cheska, will open at 6 tonight at the Glorietta 2 Atrium, Ayala Center, to coincide with the opening of the 17th Petit Monde boutique. All four models will be present at the opening.

Also to be unreeled is the video directed by De Leon, with cinematography by award-winning filmmaker **Marissa Floirendo**, of "Muro Ami" fame. The video shows underwater shots, a Floirendo signature, of the four models swimming and frolicking.

"Dare Me" the photo exhibit will run until June 13.

New Dyna albums

I CHATTED with **Howard Dy** of Dyna Music, who proudly said that Dyna has remained a vital moving force in the local music industry after being in the recording business for four decades.

"The company intends to deliver good music to Filipinos, from both local and foreign artists," Dy said.

He enumerated Dyna's new foreign releases that are now on top of the music charts all over the globe. He singled out the group One Giant Leap, and its unique DVD project fusing spoken word, sounds, rhythms and images from across the globe to celebrate the creative diversity of musicians, storytellers, authors, filmmakers, other artists and thinkers from different cultures. The group has earned two Grammy nominations for best long form DVD and best short form music video for "My Culture," according to Dy.

Then there are the jazz albums of Supreme Beings of Leisure and Paul T, the all-male group Robertson Brothers and Distinct Nature, the dance albums "Ole Ola" and the "Disco Brothers," and literock from Costeau.

Dy said that aside from introducing foreign albums, Dyna Music is preparing to present its new local talents. Contracts have been signed and the recording company is planning a corporate launch in September featuring the new talents.

BEAUTIES in Bohol for the Jun de Leon pictorial (from left) Cheska Garcia, Anne Curtis and Jodi Santamaria.

The End for 'KMK'

GMA 7's soap, "Kung Mawawala Ka," will end tonight and give way to a new series, "Narito ang Puso Ko," which starts on Monday, June 9.

"Narito ang Puso Ko" is in the tradition of GMA 7's big-budget, star-studded stirring teledramas.

In a story reminiscent of "Anastasia," **Jolina Magdangal** plays Antonina, the missing heiress of the powerful San Victores clan, owner of a chain of first-class hotels and airlines. At the age of three, she lost her parents in an explosion. She was saved by Elsa (Amy Austria), who raised her as her own daughter and named her Isabella.

Directing "Narito ang Puso Ko" are actor-directors **Gina Alajar** and **Eric Quizon.**

THROUGH his lens perfectly, De Leon shoots Garcia and Sunshine Cruz.

Also in the cast are **Rósa Rosal, Eddie Garcia, Dina Bonnevie, Ariel Rivera, Raymart Santiago, Raymond Bagatsing,** Carmina Villaroel, **Monsour del Rosario, Benjie Paras, James Blanco, Lilia Dizon** and **Karen de los Reyes.**

TV soap operas, pro and con

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FIVE years ago, nobody could have predicted that local soap operas would have taken over most of the weeknight primetime programming hours, as they now have on ABS-CBN and GMA-7. On the country's two leading networks, three or four nighttime soaps are telecast one after the other, and yet the ratings figures remain high.

Local soaps have become such a major component of TV programming that they have affected Filipino viewers' preferences and sensibilities in a big way. Many observers and analysts think their influence is generally negative, but most viewers obviously disagree, because ratings show that they like watching all those soap series.

Here's how the arguments go on both sides of this great and controversial divide:

Soap fans enjoy the shows because they star some of the biggest and/or most talented actors in the country. This is a boon to many viewers because they can watch these stars' performances on free TV, rather than having to pay good money to catch their movies in theaters.

On the other hand, analysts worry that the soaps' hyper characters, especially their really vicious villains, are communicating the wrong values to televiewers.

No way, retort the soap fans, who say that most viewers know that what they're watching is fiction, so they don't get affected by the characters and situations they see in soaps.

But some observers think that this is too rosy and clueless a view of things. They also point out that the soaps' high quotient of treachery, violence and constant conflict presents much too inimical a view of relationships. This is especially harmful in the case of family relationships, which the soaps love to complicate sometimes to an absurd degree.

For their part, soap fans love these complications and convolutions, because they keep things eventful, thus adding to the soap operas' entertainment quotient.

But observers fret that complications are resorted to for their own sake, to keep viewers watching from day to day. As a result, genuine storytelling and believable character development are seriously compromised.

In addition, they note that soaps love to set their actions in the homes of very wealthy characters, thus encouraging viewers to escape from reality and dote on the lives of the rich and infamous. This in turn leads to the development of an unreal view of life, and an overly materialistic attitude that is potentially harmful, especially to young and impressionable viewers.

For our part, one of the most unfortunate effects of all those soap operas on TV is the lack of variety of program types on the tube. This is bad because TV is supposed to provide relevant and niche-specific programs for all sorts of viewers.

Now that the soaps have taken over the nighttime primetime hours, viewers who aren't fixated on melodramas are left high and dry by the TV people who profess to love them so much.

Asian cartoons

THE JAPAN Foundation and Shangri-La Plaza Corp. invite the public to view the Sixth Asian Cartoon Exhibition from June 18 to July 1 at level 4 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

The exhibit, titled "Images of My Asian Neighbors," features editorial cartoons from all over Asia, and provides a good showcase not only for the craft of cartooning but for the issues that engage Asian editorial cartoonist these days.

Corban Daycare Center

CORBAN Daycare Center is introducing a new curriculum with more effective methods that enhance learning through play. Proprietor Mona Gonzales shares, "In our commitment to serve the community better, we have accessed an American curriculum, parts of which we've amended to suit the local market."

Daycare Center children have the option to stay the whole day. To maximize their time, they are provided with educational modules to learn letters, numbers and reading readiness in a stress-free and nurturing environment. Call 842-6665.

RMN's FM stations gets high on 'i'

SHOW TIME

DURING its 50th anniversary last year, Radio Mindanao Networks (RMN) reshaped its radio programming.

A new team was put in place to effect new program concepts, which has already brought *i*-FM Laoag to a strong overall No. 1 rating in the whole of Ilocos Norte. In Cagayan de Oro, *i*-FM rates as the leading FM radio station in the morning.

"This only proves that the programming direction adopted by RMN Networks is what the audience wants," says sales and marketing vice president Butch Canoy, "and we're pretty happy that we are hitting our target markets."

The emerging FM market during the '80s convinced RMN to cater to a predominantly young pop music audience. During the mid-'90s, programming changed to cater to the yuppie crowd and pushed the target market up to the A-B and higher-C levels. All these changed with new directives from president and CEO Eric Canoy.

The new team, led by Fred Davis who leads RMN's FM operations, was tasked to create a unique image for the station, resulting in the call letters "*i*-FM."

Explains programming director Vince Jaen: "The i in i-FM refers to every single person in the target market. Our new logo tells all and sundry that each person is important, and that the station exists to cater to this particular individual's needs."

The letter i has also been used as a prefix to the title of the *i*-FM programs: "*i* Umaga Na," 6-9 a.m. featuring top hits; "You and *i*' featuring love songs; "*i* Tanghali Na," "*i*ce Breaker, "*i*-Way 939," "Bulls *i* Special," "*i* Goes Gold" and "*i* Goes Retro."

"We have always invested in market research because we want to know what's happening out there in terms of consumer wants and needs, demographics and listening patterns," says Butch Canoy of the Radio Audience Tracking (RAT) Patrol surveys. The national surveys are taken as often as possible. In key areas such as the cities of Davao, Cebu, Dagupan, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos, they are conducted at least twice a year.

As its tagline says, "RMN Networks: At your service, wherever you are."

Remember when, with Q&A at Edsa Shangri-la

Q&A BAND performs live every Friday night in June at the Lobby Lounge of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

Listen, reminisce, sing and dance to pop, soul, retro and disco music as vocalists Jay Marquez, Anna Lissa del Valle, Jay Javier and Michael Yonting bring back the music of Frankie Valli, The Stylistics, Earth, Wind and Fire, VST and Company.

The band's rhythm section is also composed of the industry's finest session musicians, namely, Mike Alba on drums, Rancis de Leon on saxophone, John Ralph Campo on trumpet, Toby Zapanta on trombone, Eddie Boy Recto on guitar, Bobby Rasco on bass and Bhoy Lumacad on keyboard.

For inquiries and reservations, call restaurant reservations at 634-7373 or 633-8888 extensions 2738 or 2739.

Q&A Band.

Holmsen 'had a bad heart ...

From page C1

companion, Norman Abarte, 24, a writer of PM tabloid, were found dead in Holmsen's two-story apartment on Harvard Street in Quezon City.

Police are looking into the possibility that his houseboy, identified only as "Jerry Bisaya," was behind the killing.

Investigators said Holmsen died from a broken skull that resulted from blows inflicted by a hard object, while Abarte was stabbed in the chest and neck.

Perez said she met Holmsen at the Sampaguita compound where they both worked before the studio stopped making movies in the late '70s.

Thoughtful man

Another friend, television host German Moreno, who starred in many Sampaguita movies, said he last spoke with Holmsen, also on the phone, last April.

Moreno said Holmsen had called to ask if he he had received the compact discs the composer had sent him.

"He sent me compilations of religious songs for five years without fail," Moreno remembered. "I feel guilty of the times that I was too busy to even say thank you."

Sampaguita Pictures archivist Nena Odoño said Holmsen kept a record of the birthdays of most of the Sampaguita employees.

"*Direk* Danny used to bake cakes for us on our birthdays and gave them a day in advance," said Odoño.

She said she first met Holmsen in 1976. "He had not changed a bit. What probably changed was that he gained more friends through the years. He was a very thoughtful person."

Sixties hits

Cousin Rafael Dalit said Holmsen spent most of his time playing the piano and writing songs.

"In fact, his friends in the movie industry, like Gloria Romero and Pilita Corales, had been encouraging him to produce another album," Dalit said.

In the '60s, Holmsen wrote songs that became hits for singers Pilita Corales, Carmen Soriano, Sylvia La Torre and Carmen Pateña. He also worked with younger recording artists like Nora Aunor, Tirso Cruz III and the late Eddie Peregrina.

Recently, Holmsen had been into evangelical songs, mostly due to the influence of Dalit and a certain Father Guido, who Dalit said he has not met. Dalit, a reflexologist, is also a special lay minister in their parish in Cubao, Quezon City.

"Whenever I visited him, he always talked to me about his and Father Guido's plans for our parish," said Dalit.

Holmsen's last works were the religious albums "King of Kings" and "Ave Maria–Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," which were released by Aquarius Records in 2001.

Spreading the Word

"The basic reason I veered to religious recordings," Holmsen had said in an earlier interview, "is because I believe that music is a universal language. Perhaps, in my small way, I might be able to reach out and help spread the Good News."

In 2000, he produced an album called "Danny Holmsen Presents 'My Mother'."

FLOWER 4, the stars of the Taiwanese soap, bloom all over Metro Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

'Meteor Garden' buries competition

By Leah Salterio
and Abigail L. Ho

ONLY LESS than a month on local TV, the Taiwanese soap "Meteor Garden," dubbed in Tagalog by ABS-CBN, has made it to the No. 5 spot among the network's Top 15 programs, according to the AGB Philippines survey for the period of May 18 to 24.

"Meteor Garden" posted a rating of 29.6 percent, the survey said.

ABS-CBN bought the rights to air "Meteor Garden," which has started a region-wide craze. The lead stars, the boyband, F4 or Flower 4, is also fast gaining popularity in Europe and the United States and have two hit CDs.

However, the popularity of "Meteor Garden," shown at 5:30 p.m. daily, has also raised a howl of protest. Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Chair Consoliza P. Laguardia earlier brought to the attention of ABS-CBN vice president for TV Cory Vidanes the complaints against the program, that certain episodes of which are said to have violated the provisions of the censorship law.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama has called for the banning of "Meteor Garden," noting that it was also banned in China, where parents reportedly complained that the show had a bad effect on society and the young.

Laguardia also ordered ABS-CBN to submit each episode of "Meteor Garden" to the board for review and approval prior to telecast.

In a letter to Laguardia last June 4, Maloli Espinosa-Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government and corporate affairs and PR, assured the MTRCB chair that the network would exercise self-regulation and "closely review the presentation of the program."

"We are mindful of our responsibility to the viewers of the program, most of whom are children and minors," said Manalastas' letter to MTRCB. "We will ensure that the scenes included in the program fall properly within the Parental Guidance (PG) classification."

With the frenzy over "Meteor Garden," GMA Network also recently negotiated with a Taiwanese production for the right to air a Chinovela opposite the ABS-CBN hit.

According to teaser clips, merchandising plugs and music videos, the GMA 7 soap will revolve around a basketball player and a girl or two.

AGB Philippines' overnight ratings for May 27 showed "Meteor Garden" getting a whopping 68-percent audience share among viewers in Metro Manila and neighboring areas Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan.

In its 5:30 p.m. time slot, "Meteor Garden" crushed GMA Network's "Extra Extra" (hosted by Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao), which got an audience share of only 18 percent.

Overnight ratings are results for a specific day that are compiled over a one-week period before being released officially. Usually, overnight ratings reflect the trend for the whole week.

The only programs that beat "Meteor Garden" in terms of ratings during that survey week were other ABS-CBN programs, all evening soaps. These included the just-concluded Nora Aunor starrer "Bituin" with 38.9 percent, "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" with 36.8 percent, "Darating ang Umaga" with 36.5 percent and the Jericho Rosales-Kristine Hermosa starrer, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" with 35.2 percent.

AGB's May 27 overnight results also showed the ABS-CBN evening soaps lording it over their GMA Network counterparts.

"Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" did considerably better than "Habang Kapiling Ka," with an audience share of 55 percent versus the latter's 28 percent.

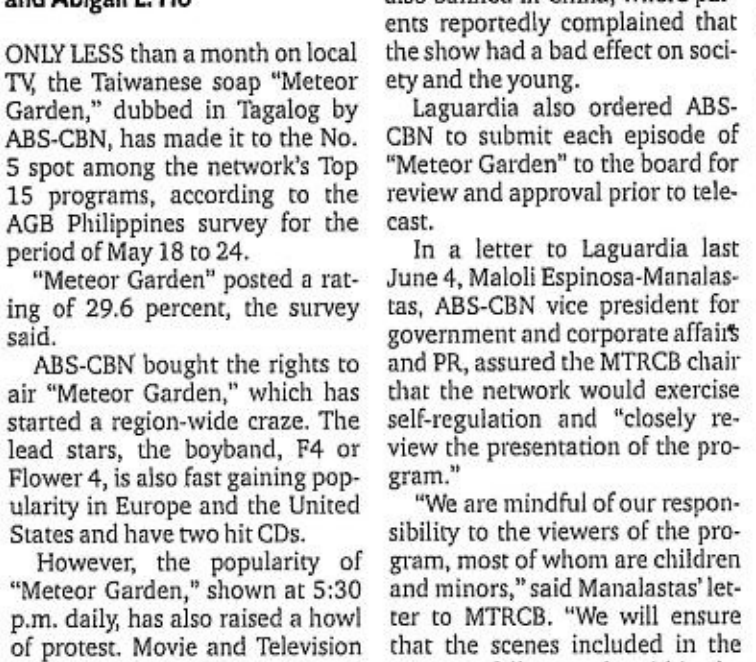
ABS-CBN's latest dramedy (mix of drama and comedy), "Basta't Kasama Kita," which stars Judy Ann Santos and Robin Padilla, had a 60-percent audience share. Its counterpart on GMA 7, "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw Pa Rin," had a 27-percent share.

"Darating ang Umaga" continued to reign in its time slot with a 53-percent audience share, while "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" had 32 percent.

"Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" had a 50-percent audience share, edging out "Kung Mawawala Ka" with 32 percent.

ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" had a 63-percent audience share on May 27. The Mel Tiangco-anchored "Frontpage" had less than half at 31 percent.

The Kris Aquino game show "Game Ka Na Ba," was in a league of its own, cornering 52 percent of Mega Manila viewers on May 27.



'SPAGHETTI PARTY'
The Sex Bomb Girls, who recently came out with their latest single "Spaghetti Song," under their latest album "Round 2" with BMG Records Pilipinas, will treat all their fans in a concert-party, June 9, 9 p.m. at Klownz Comedy Bar. Special guests are The Streetboys. Klownz is at 1328 Quezon Ave. corner Scout Santiago and Panay Ave., Quezon City. Ticket price is P400. For reservation, call 374-4455, 374-4065 or 0917-8109394.

Jaya, The Company headline mall anniversary concert

SHOW BIZ stars join the festivities at Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, as the shopping, dining and entertainment complex in the south celebrates its fifth anniversary, highlighted by a concert tomorrow, June 7.

Jaya and The Company headline the main show at 5 p.m. at the Carousel Court, Level 2.

The soul diva is expected to bring the house down with her rendition of popular tunes from the '70s.

The Company goes down memory lane as they trace through songs the colorful past of Festival Supermall and the many innovations it has introduced in the retail industry. Exciting prizes are at stake during the program.

SHOW TIME

Program host is stage and TV personality RJ Rosales, with Apollo Abraham as game master.

RJ will perform with the show's dance group, The Maneouvres. Fans can meet the dance icons early on at X-Site teen amusement center, Level 3, at 4 p.m. for a teaser dance number before the main show.

Replay Band sings '60s hits at Shangri-La's Lobby Lounge

REPLAY Band is the talk of the town and people come in droves to their performances every Friday at the Lobby Lounge of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The band's repertoire includes tunes by the Platters, Beatles, Dave Clark 5, Chad and Jeremy, Beach Boys, Zombies, Hollies, Gary Lewis and the Rolling Stones.

What makes the Replay Band different from other '60s bands is its strict adherence to the original keys of the songs done by the original performer, hence the tingling feeling of being brought back in time and its practically replaying the original.

Members of the Replay Band are all executives and businessmen -- Rudy Arce of Arce Dairy (vocalist), Dickie Dizon of OEM Car Aircon (second lead guitarist), Tito Bantug (vocalist and alternate drummer), Sonny Henson of CEO Multimedia (bass), Roland Tecson of NHA (lead guitarist and musical director), realty developer Glen Mislang (vocalist), Nonong Santillan (vocalist), Noel Balbenta (drummer) and Jun de Lara (keyboardist).

From a nameless band that played for private parties, company affairs and club inductions in 1994, the Replay Band turned to semi-professional to upgrade their performance level and played at R&R Cafe along Jupiter St. and Kiko's Bar in Makati Avenue.

Successful show at Merk's

NINA

SOUL siren Nina recently staged a successful concert, "Foolish Heart," at Merk's Bar Bistro.

Nina rendered cuts from her debut album "Heaven," like the hit single "Jealous," "Second Floor," "Foolish Heart" and other R&B and pop jazz hits.

The concert is produced by Firedancer Events Corporation, a company known for its unique and innovative approach to events management.

Concert organizers were Raniel David, Rachel Lim, Peejay Lustresano, Bogie Reyes, Erl Orenza, Dan da Roza and Roland Borja.

Interested parties can e-mail the company at firedancer_events@eudoramail.com.

Nina is being managed by Anabelle Regalado.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

REAL CANCUN R18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:10, 9:30	AGENT CODY BANKS PG13 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:30,9:40	TANGING INA GP 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40
DARKNESS FALLS PG13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	FRIDA R18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 11:40,1:45,3:50, 5:55,8:00,10:10

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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JUNE 28 2003 NINA "HEAVEN SENT" 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Frankie MUNIZ Hilary DUFF
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OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003
RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR.
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BERTUD NG PUTIK
OPENS JUNE 11
opens june 11, 2003

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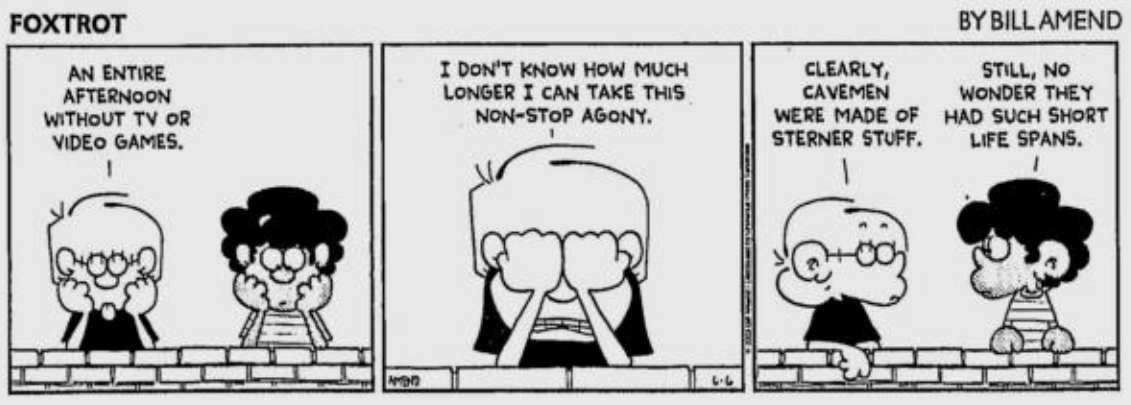


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You easily grasp the big picture. You are a visionary at heart. Quite often you express your views through art, acting and writing. You have the power to influence others. Sometimes you are eccentric; at all times you are your own person. This year could be one of the best years of your life! Think big.
Birthdate of: Robert Englund, actor; Sandra Bernhard, comedienne; Amanda Pays, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't be surprised if unusual things related to your past occur today. This could be connected to a friend or a group to which you belonged. (Stay tuned.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A friend who is a bit of a character might come back into your life today. Or possibly, a friend simply suggests a bizarre idea to you. Think twice before you get involved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't be discouraged if career matters that looked promising are suddenly on the back burner once again. You might have to wait until January before something materializes again.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Matters related to joint property, shared holdings and the responsibilities of others are suddenly put on hold. It will probably stay like this for the rest of the year.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Partnerships from your past might suddenly be on your doorstep again. If you worked hard to get out of them before, don't be hasty to step back into them again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's a good idea to go back to upgrading your technical skills for work. This is not a step backward; it's an investment in your own future!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Potential love affairs are definitely possible now. Acquaintances from the past somehow come into your life again. (You'll have to decide what to do.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Matters related to show business and the entertainment world might be stalled now and for the next six months. Fear not. Next year looks like gangbusters!

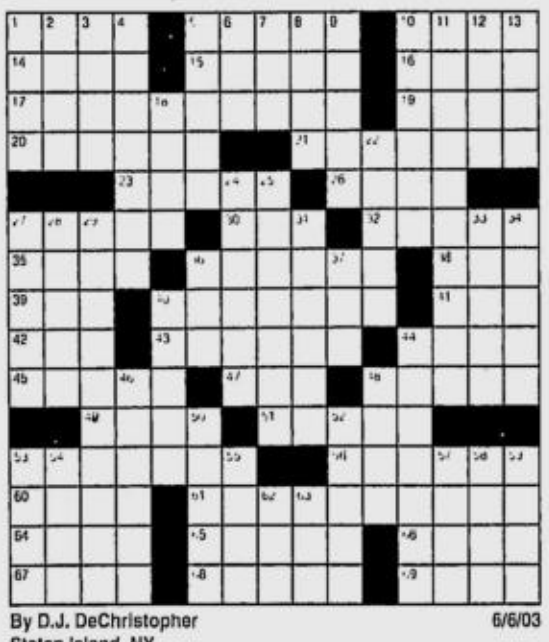
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Sudden changes at home might take place now. The irony is that they are really not so sudden; you've suspected they were coming for some time now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Grab any opportunity to get increased training if you can. Explore technology, aviation, radio work and activities with organizations you like.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Sudden changes at work might mean a promotion is in the wings. Be patient. This might not materialize until late December or January.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You see you might have gone too far too fast with something. You need to stop, regroup and get your bearings. Figure out the best way to approach things so that you can move forward next year.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Minuscule particle
5 Tierney of "Liar Liar"
10 Went right
14 Art of the absurd
15 Land parcels
16 Q-V connection
17 On-line swindler?
19 Myth ending?
20 Scandinavian
21 Like Frank bios
23 Be nuts about
26 Carpenter's file
27 Home of the Minotaur
30 Big bird Down Under
32 Abounds
35 Took a horse
36 Grip tightly
38 Acquire
39 Put into service
40 English prince
41 Miner's product
42 Transgression
43 Direct sales
44 Hay unit
45 Arizona city
47 Wapiti
48 Spud
49 Bravos at bullfights
51 Beelzebub
53 Ballerina Makarova
56 Minnesota lake
60 Of grades 1 to 12
61 On-line canine?
64 Editor's marginal note
65 Salami type
66 "Misery" star
67 Rocky ridges
68 Two under par
69 Conceits

DOWN
1 Yemen port
2 Tex-Mex order
3 Olfactory stimulator
4 Authorization to act
5 Mr. Polo
6 Play division
7 William Tell's canton
8 Break
9 Daisylike flower
10 Young salmon
11 On-line patsy?
12 List-shortening abbr.
13 Uninteresting
18 Page
22 Substructure for plaster
24 Interact
25 Green beryl
27 Earth's lithosphere
28 Perez of "White Men Can't Jump"
29 On-line Cub Scouts leader?
31 Dissimilar
33 Oberon of films
34 Handle the helm
36 Ernesto Guevara
37 Animation unit
40 Angler's lote
44 Equilibrium
46 Braids
48 Leatherwood
50 Military blockade
52 Curriculum _ (mini bio)
53 Avian abode
54 Quartet member
55 Vicinity
57 Men only
58 Bologna greeting
59 Blyth and Miller
62 Gerundial ending
63 Lon _ of Cambodia

By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY
6/6/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	E	P		C	O	O	S		O	C	T	E	T
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MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 PAKNERS	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	Art Film WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 11:30	THX THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30	3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG TANGING INA	WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DARKNESS FALLS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	4 DARKNESS FALLS
	5 THE REAL CANCUN		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ANG TANGING INA 1:30, 3:55, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
	6 ANG TANGING INA	CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm		
	7 DARKNESS FALLS			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) FRIDA
2 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) AGENT CODY BANKS
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANG TANGING INA
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 PAKNER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana Cinema 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 PAKNER

stármall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 KAPIT BAHAY

Metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 DAYO
3 PAKNER
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 KAPIT BAHAY
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Mstar
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 X-MEN-2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 PAKNER
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY) FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 PAKNER
6 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 FRIDA
9 AGENT CODY BANKS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 (SDDS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 PAKNER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 PAKNER

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SEX & ZEN
Lords KAPIT BAHAY
Jennet RESERVE

Mandaluyong
MARKETMARKET
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 KAPIT BAHAY
4 PAKNER
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 PAKNERS
2 TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS) DARKNESS FALLS
5 (DTS) REAL CANCUN
6 BIGAY HILIG
7 MATRIX RELOADED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PAKNER
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 PAKNER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 JOHNNY ENGLISH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 (DTS) PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KAULAYAW
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 ANGER MANAGEMENT
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BAYARAN
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DAYO!
2 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Level 4
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 THE REAL CANCUN
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 PAKNERS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 THE REAL CANCUN
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 PAKNERS
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 THE VERDICT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ANG KAPITBAHAY
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 FRIDA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BIGAY HILIG
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12 THE REAL CANCUN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE REAL CANCUN
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 PAKNERS
12 ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 THE REAL CANCUN
6 FRIDA
7 THE VERDICT
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 DARKNESS FALLS
11 PAKNERS
12 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE REAL CANCUN
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 THE VERDICT
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 THE REAL CANCUN
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 PAKNERS
10 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5 RING 0
6 DAYO
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 SO CLOSE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 WILLARD
2 CLOSED
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 SO CLOSE
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SOULKEEPER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 AGENT CODY BANKS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 A MAN APART
2 PHONEBOOTH
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6 SO CLOSE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 PHONEBOOTH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

DARKNESS FALLS
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
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call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20, 9:30LMF,11:10 END
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 REAL CANCUN
4 HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 FRIDA
8 MATRIX
9 AGENT CODY BANKS
10 BIGAY HILIG

MATINEE PRICE: P90 (THX cinema) / P75 (1st level cinemas)
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 MATRIX RELOADED
3 PAKNERS
4 REAL CANCUN
5 HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 REAL CANCUN
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 MATRIX RELOADED
5 REAL CANCUN
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

Malabon Fitsquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNERS
4 BIGAY HILIG

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1 KIKAY
2 PAKNERS
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 REAL CANCUN
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 ANG TANGING INA

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KIKAY
5 PAKNERS

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SO CLOSE
4 PHONEBOOTH
5 RING 0
6 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 WILLARD
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 SOUL KEEPER
5 TANGING INA
6 SO CLOSE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

King of the road, king of the airwaves

From page C8

younger, he recorded a hip-hop album in Tennessee."

Garcia says he is proud of the way his mother Adelaida brought him up. "She raised me well. She never told me to hate my father for leaving us. She even helped me write letters to him when I was a boy."

His mother, a frail-looking but kind, strong-willed woman, died last September.

His father's son

His father, Jesus Rivera Aquino Sr., was a Mexican-American soldier who fought in the Philippines during World War II as part of the Lingayen Gulf American forces led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Garcia says his father went back home to the US immediately after the war but, like many other American soldiers who abandoned their Filipina lovers, did not bring his mother along "because he already had a family in the US when he met my mother."

But unlike other American soldiers who refused to acknowledge their Filipino children, Garcia was eventually recognized by the Mexican-American soldier, after many years of Garcia's search for him.

Garcia says his father even arranged for him, his wife Rita and their children to obtain their green cards so that they could live with him in Texas.

"My father and half-siblings know me well," Garcia says. "I was constantly communicating with them while I was growing up. They know what I'd been achieving here because I sent them pictures, clippings and a copy of my Vicor album."

His father died in April 2000.

Bike-obsessed

Garcia was 32 when he finally made his first visit to the US, in 1977. His half-siblings took good care of him during his two-week stay in Pharr, Texas.

He would later live in Long Beach, California for four and a half years before his whole family moved to Guam, where he became an active member of the Guam Cycling Foundation.

He remembers the days when he would ride his bicycle on his way to the Mangaldan Central School in Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

"I used to treat cycling merely as a means to get to where I wanted to go," he says. "I had no intention of joining any cycling contests."

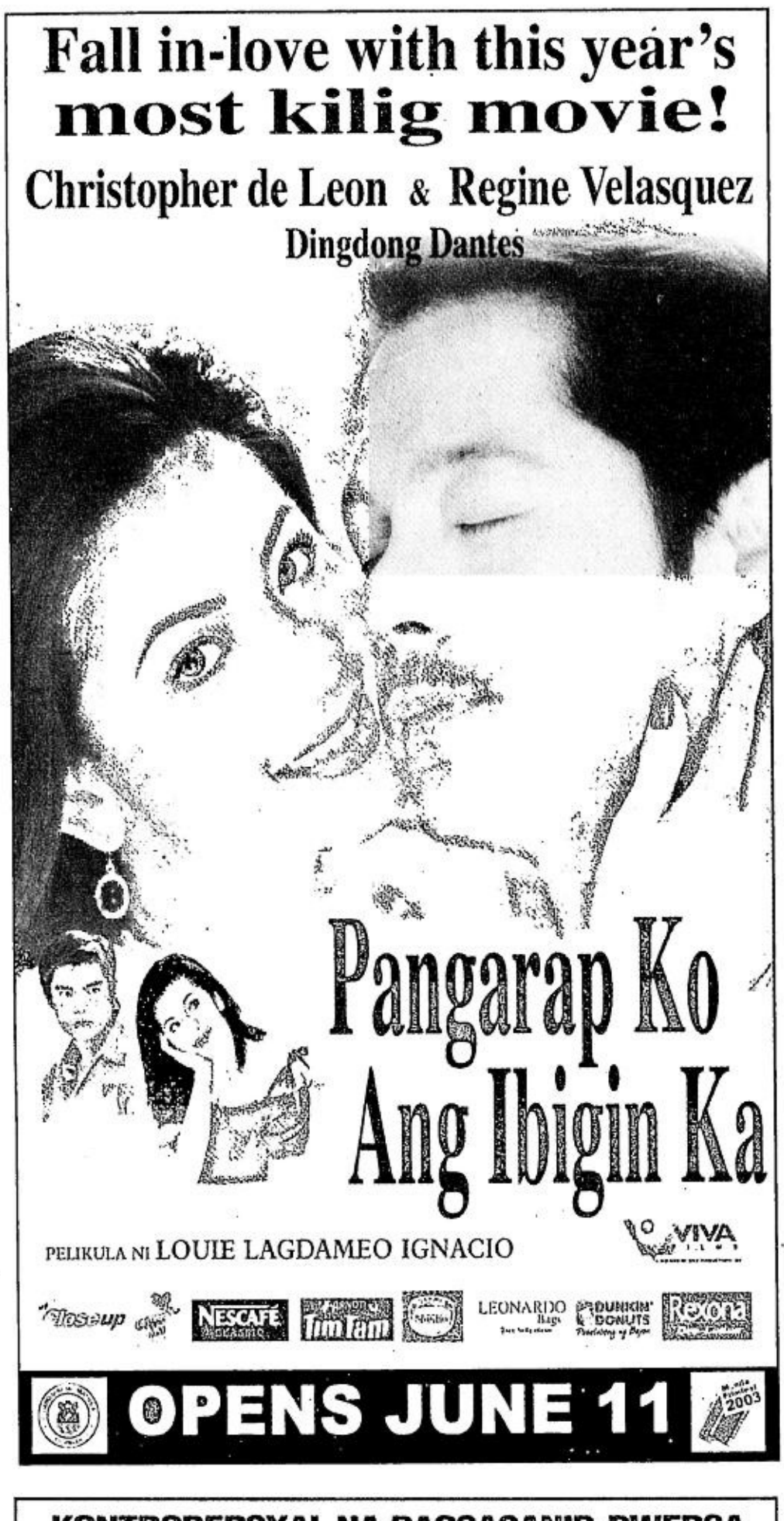
But he says Pangasinenses like him are obsessed with biking the way they are with *bangus* (milkfish), *bagoong* (fish paste) or *bocayo* (grated coconut candy).

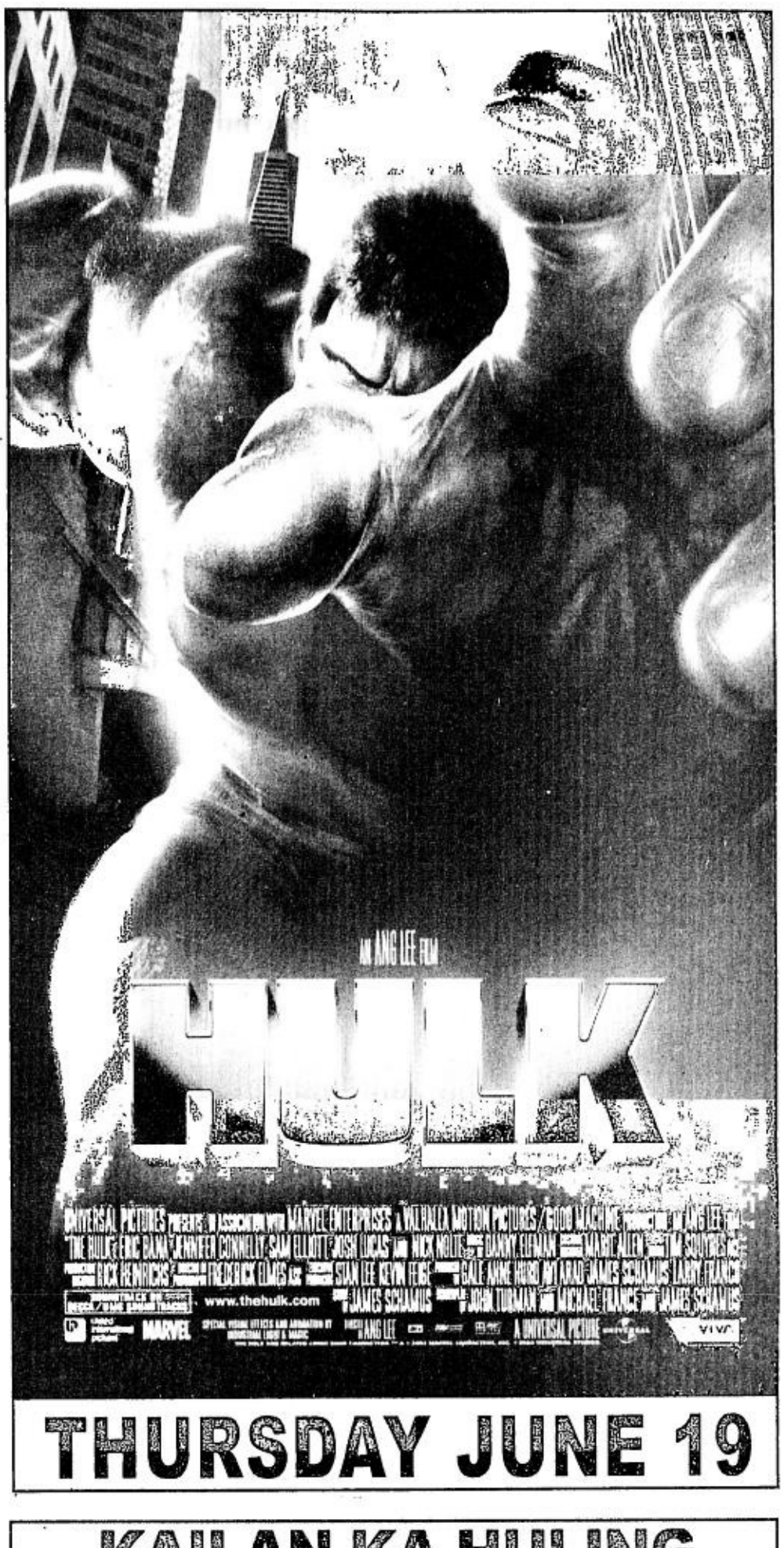
Today, Garcia is still into cycling, as a race coordinator. He organizes an average of nine races a year.

He also writes a daily sports column called "Jesspoits" in the Sun Star Pangasinan.

Garcia says he has lived an exciting life and has nothing more to wish for, "except perhaps that my life be turned into a movie like Manny Paquiao's." The boxing champion's life story was dramatized on GMA 7's "Magpakailanman" with Mark Anthony Fernandez playing the lead role.

"My life," says Garcia, "is a testimony of how hard work and determination can help you achieve your dreams."





SHOW TIME

Campus comedy on video

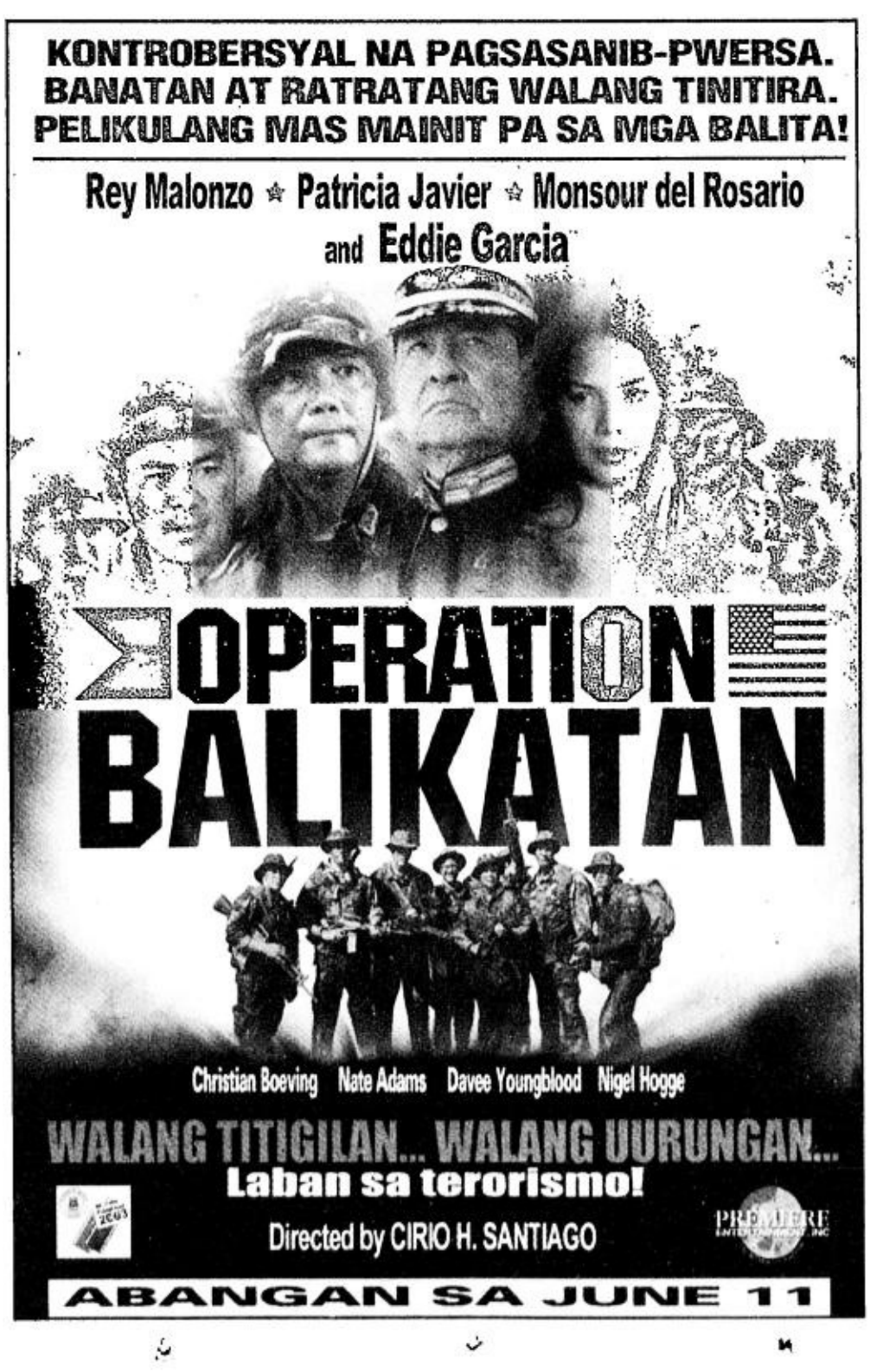
"VAN Wilder," a hilarious campus comedy, is now available on VHS and VCDs released through Artisan Entertainment and distributed by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds) is a guy who has been in college for seven years with a habit of throwing parties and fund raisers.

When his father decides that it's time for tough love, he stops paying his tuition and Van throws parties even more, this time, professionally. With his hilarious assistant, Taj Mahal Badalandabad (Kal Pen), they organize the wildest parties inside the campus.

As this develops, Gwen (Tare Reid), who writes for the college paper, was assigned to do a story about him, but Van is so busy partying to pay attention or to grant any interview. So Gwen writes the story using the information she gets from people who know and talk about him.

Call 373-4760 or 416-2141 for details.



Dish holds 'Acoustic Night'

FEEL the soothing and relaxing music of Nyoy Volante and Mannos as they take centerstage on all Thursdays of June (June 5, 12, 19 and 26) at Dish, 3rd Level of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati City.

All Globe Gentxt card holders get a special treat on June 12. Just present card with valid ID to avail of a free entrance, with inclusive free drink of the month.

Reminisce the glorious days of the '60s and '70s with the Rockin' Revival on Mondays (June 9, 16 and 23).

Regular crowd drawers Spirit of '67 brings the house down on Tuesdays (June 10, 17 and 24).

Freestyle takes centerstage on Wednesdays (June 18 and 25) and Chedie with the Parliament Syndicate on June 11.

Fridays come alive as Overtone and Pido with Take One perform (June 6, 13 and 20) and Paolo Santos with Pido with Take One (June 27). Call 898-1771 or 898-1824.

THURSDAY ARTIST. Nyoy Volante sings with Mannos.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ONE OF THEM IS LYING. SO IS THE OTHER.

Kate Hudson
Matthew McConaughey

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS

HowToLoseAGuyMovie.com

NOW SHOWING

The Ayala Mall Events

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA 4 GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Father's Day at the Ayala Malls

AYALA CENTER
Fun and Entertainment - Watch the show and join the Father and Son games to win lots of prizes.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Motortown 2003, Alabang Town Center Car Show June 9-15, 2003

Basketball Play Pass Promo - Dads get one (1) basketball pass at Toby's or Olympic World for a minimum purchase of P500 at any ATC establishment.

Father's Day Treats at Food Choices at the Town - Free iced tea refill at any Food Choices establishment for every P100 food purchase.

AYALA CEBU
Instant Win Promo - Free bottle of wine for the first 300 shoppers per day from June 13-15 who can present P1,000 worth of receipt from any Ayala Center Cebu's stores (except Metro Ayala).

Fun and Entertainment - Special show featuring Marissa Sanchez and Ate Glow.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
www.ayalamalls.com.ph www.ayalaland.com.ph

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13

'Darkness Falls'

Scream all you can !

Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.

A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.

. You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!

EVIL RISES.
DARKNESS FALLS
SonyPictures.com
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	DARKNESS FALLS
Ali 5	REAL CANCUN
Ali 6	BIGAY HILIG
Ali 7	MATRIX RELOADED

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 8	PBA GAMES
JUNE 9 & 11	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 28	NCAA OPEN CEREMONIES

ELEPHANT WORLD
ELEPHANT SHOW
REOPENING SOON !
FUN RIDES
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REAL CANCUN
CINEMA-12	VERDICT
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
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ENTERTAINMENT

HITMAKERS. On the road to promote their records are Vicor Hitmakers (from left background, clockwise) Garcia, Julius Obregon, two Lucena City radio announcers, Neddie Decena and Florence Aguilar.

STILL on wheels, Garcia (left) today organizes cycling events.

YODELING cyclist performs in Lucena City in November 1973.

King of the road, king of the airwaves

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Watch out for a bigger and better Junior Inquirer every last Saturday of the month. Its broadsheet format and nationwide scope give kids more stuff to read, do and learn from. Share this news with others because after the new Junior Inquirer comes out, kids all over the country will never be the same again, they'll be better!

By Marinel R. Cruz

FIRST he became king of the road. Soon after, '70s champion cyclist Jesus "Jess" Garcia Jr. became king of the airwaves, too.

He was a hit as a national cycling champ, winning the famously grueling Tour of Luzon in 1973, when he was 28, as well as the Tour of Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the Tour of Picca (Philippine Industrial, Commercial Cycling Association), both in 1977.

YESTERDAY

After winning his first national cycling crown, Garcia did not fade away; he became a hitmaker, recording and popularizing novelty songs that were mostly inspired by his own hard, colorful life. His voice was not a great singing voice, and his diction refused to lose its tough Pangasinan roots, but his records sold well: "Buhay Siklista" and "Bisikleta" about his life on the road, "Ako'y Mensahero" about his days as a telegram messenger on a bike, and "Pag-ibig Mo'y Tagumpay Ko."

He also recorded Fred Panopio's "Pitong Gatang," Reggie Miller's "King of the Road" and Buddy Holly's "Early in the Morning." The last two versions were actually more popular in the Philippines than the original versions.

For more than a year, the Filipino-American cycling champ toured the country not with other cyclists but with Vicor Records singers like Dondon Nakar, Romeo Miranda, Julius Obregon, Neddie Decena and Florence Aguilar.

"We were called the Hitmakers of Vicor," recalls Garcia, now 57. "We did road shows, visited radio stations and appeared on television shows. And yes, we had our share of screaming fans."

In 1964, he joined the first of many cycling tournaments and ranked No. 18 overall. From then until he retired from cycling, he stopped competing only in 1974 to promote his Vicor album.

The Vicor recording deal came right after he won the 1973 Tour championship. He recalls that during the tour's awarding ceremony after the final lap, race and talent coordinator Nestor del Sierra had requested Garcia to sing onstage before accepting his championship trophy.

Encouragement

"I still remember that incident pretty well," he says. "It happened in the afternoon of May 17, 1973."

He sang "Fraulein," and apparently delighted Vicor Records bosses Vic del Rosario and Orly Ilacad, who were present. A few days later, Garcia signed up a record deal. His album was called "Buhay Siklista."

"I was hesitant to record the album because I knew there were other singers who were far better than I," he said. "But a lot of people encouraged me to give it a try, and so I did."

He had no formal training in music, but he won amateur singing contests when he was a teenager. He learned how to play the guitar when he was 12 by copying the moves of his older friends.

He wrote the lyrics of half of the songs in his album.

His short-lived stint in show biz entailed a lot of traveling. The mestizo admitted that the road shows often encouraged "extra-curricular activities" because of the attention celebrities like him received from supporters, especially women.

"I learned a lot about how show business worked," he says. "Temptation to do 'bad' was great."

Jazzy and Filam

His wife Rita and some of their 10 children are now living in the United States. He says he also has three adopted children.

His eldest child, Jesus III or Jazzy, was a cycling champion like his father. Jazzy, now 35, represented Guam in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

But Garcia says it is another son, the US-born Filam (short for Filipino-American), who followed in his footsteps as a recording artist. He says Filam, who was also a member of Guam's track and field team to the Sydney Games, became a recording artist in Tennessee in the '80s.

"Filam is now based in Sta. Monica, California," the proud father says. "When he was

KING/ C6

LIFESTYLE

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Editor
Chelo Banal-Formoso

THE KIND of garden you have will depend on your personality and your wish list.

Space is no object in gardening

STORY ON PAGE D2

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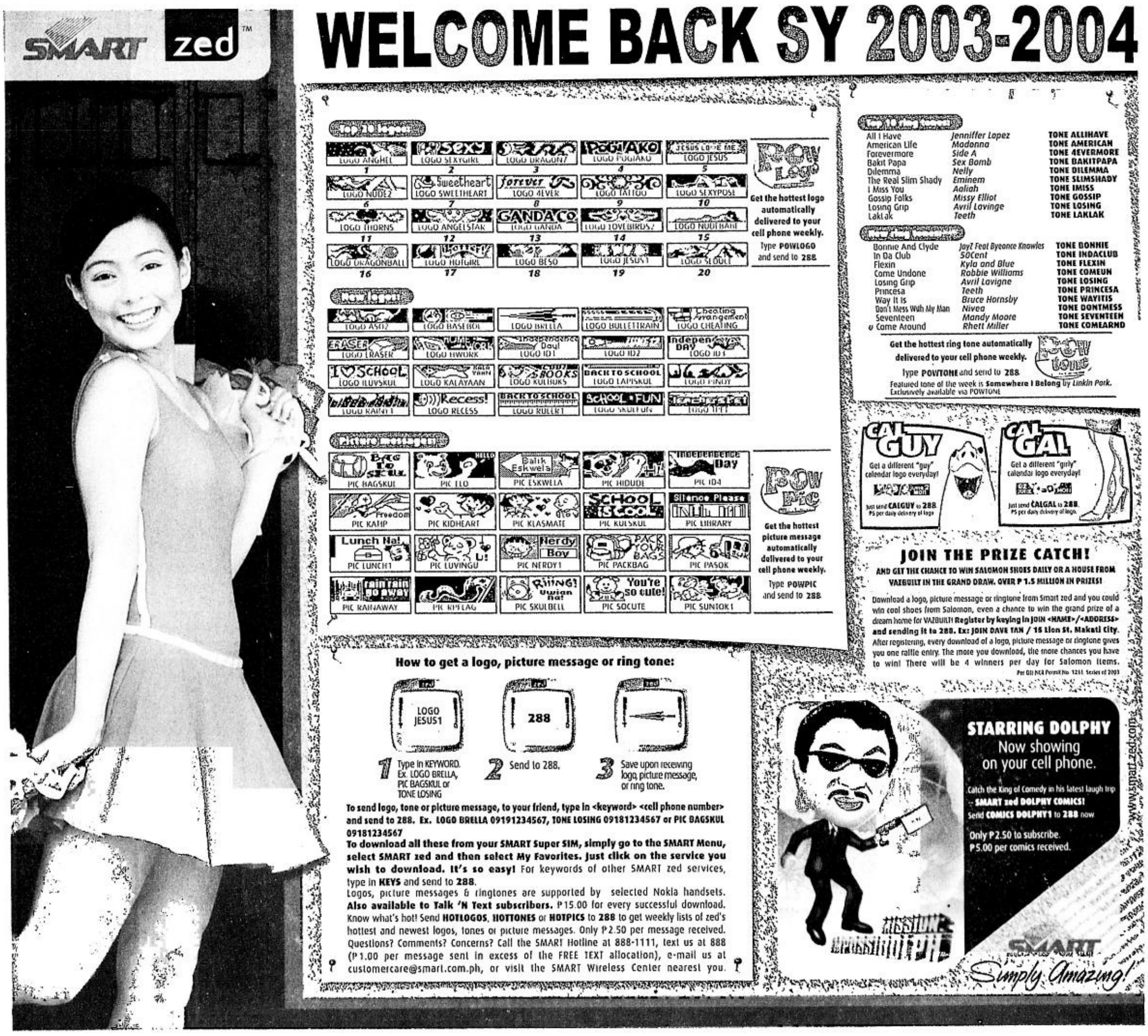
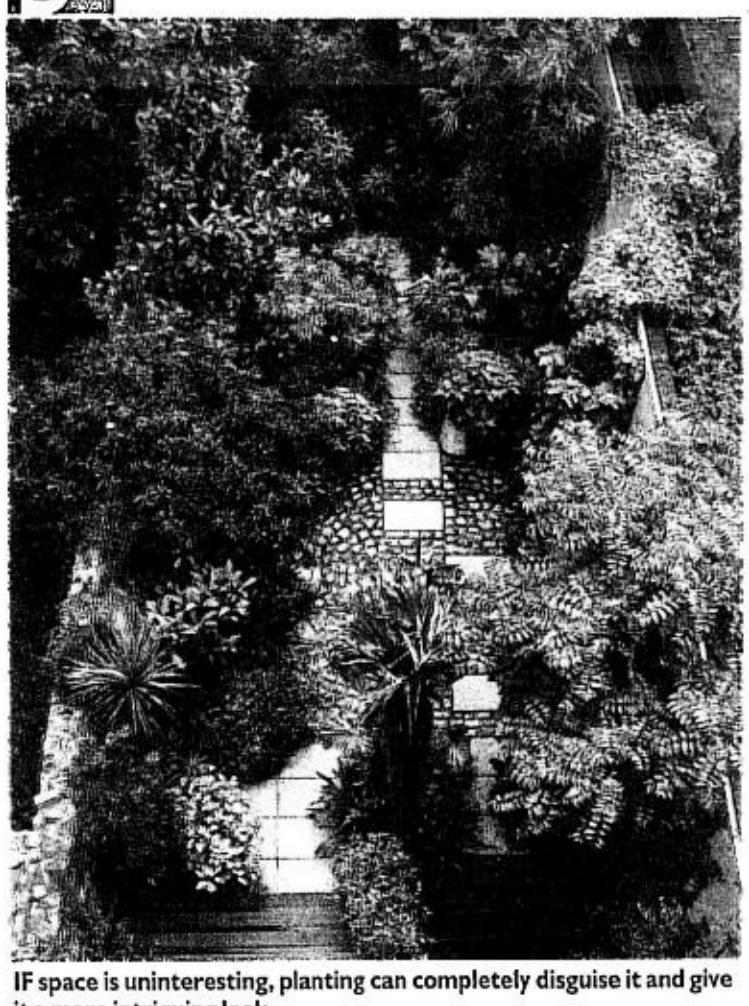




IF space is uninteresting, planting can completely disguise it and give it a more intriguing look.

MOONGATES, ancient compared to other garden accents, remain as useful in modern designs as they were in the past.

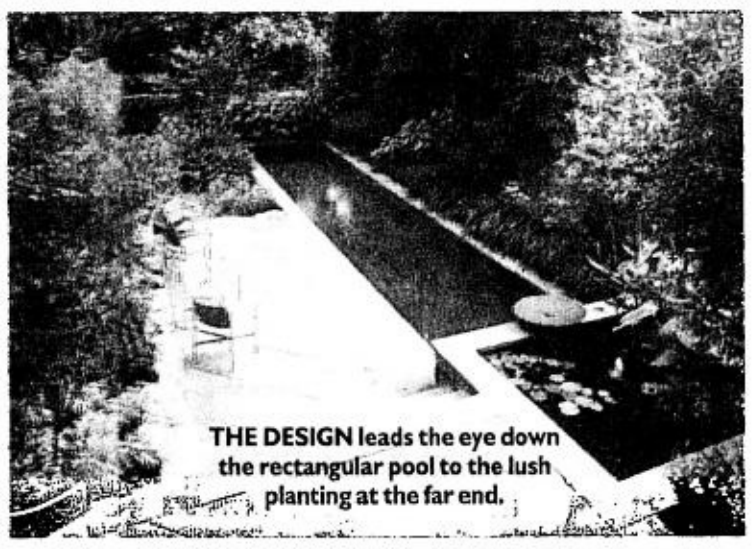
THE SHELVES for flowerpots have both a classical air and a touch of humor, aside from being practical.

Space is no object in gardening

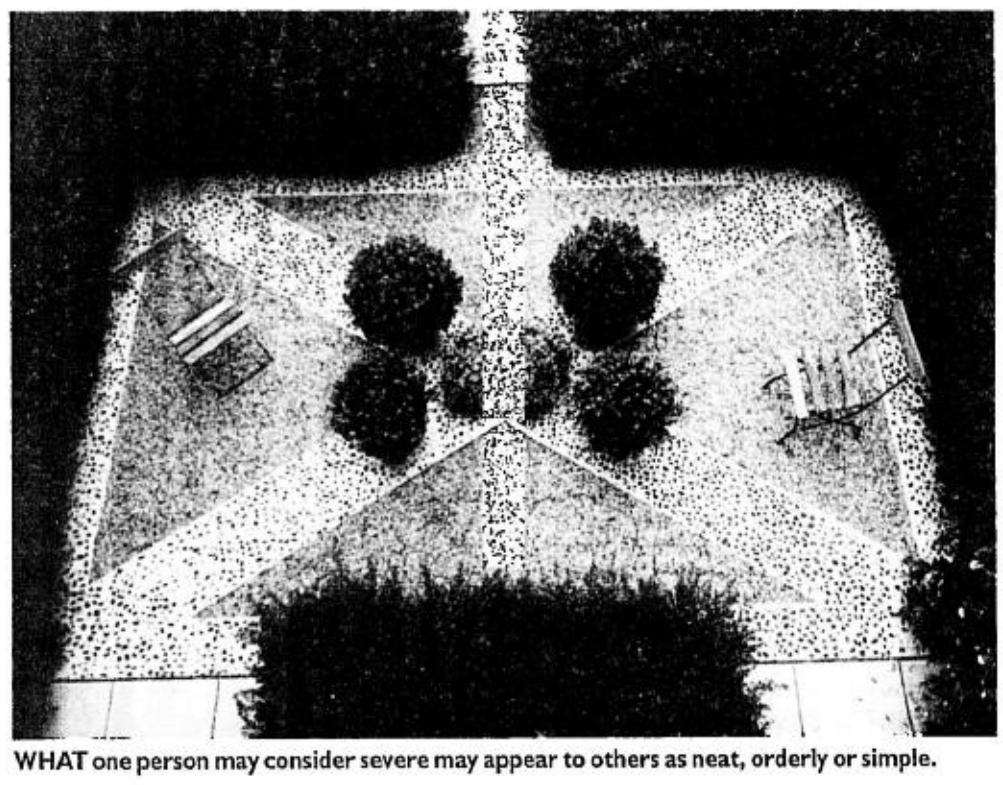
Many homeowners don't realize they can have a charming garden even if their place is small

Small Space Gardens
By David Stevens
192 pages

By Tita V. Giron



THE DESIGN leads the eye down the rectangular pool to the lush planting at the far end.



WHAT one person may consider severe may appear to others as neat, orderly or simple.

REVIEW

NO matter how small your space is, there's always room for a garden. David Stevens says a garden is always a blessing, no matter the size. It's an oasis, a joyous place, whether it's in the heart of town, a country courtyard, or a roof terrace high above the city.

Unfortunately, many homeowners living in small places don't realize that it is possible to have a charming garden inside or outside their homes. Or, if they have one, it usually looks like an afterthought with no rhyme or reason.

Stevens' "Small Space Garden" makes it possible to have that charming oasis in limited spaces. Even the most rugged and irregular area has potentials, the author assures the reader. And there are a thousand different ways to make a garden. The secret is to perceive the potential, understand, and make the best of everything.

Why the title? The author confesses on the opening page of his book, "Small gardens are an enduring passion of mine." He says he owns several small gardens. "These often awkward, little places hold endless fascination, and when you get them right, enormous satisfaction."

The author, a leading contemporary garden designer, is reportedly known in the international gardening circle for his books. He has written about 20 books including the internationally circulated "Contemporary Garden Design" and the "Contemporary Water Gardens."

Furthermore, he owns his own company, David Stevens International. His publisher, Conrad Octopus Limited, says the Stevens company is one of the largest design outfits in the United Kingdom with strong links in the United States, South Africa and Israel. Stevens has won many awards, including 26 from the Chelsea Flower Show and several international honors.

In his book, the author suggests organized planning. Have a game plan, he says. "As a professional, I know how important sequential planning is and how much easier it is to take things a step at a time."

The book is divided into four parts. The first chapter is "Analyzing Your Space." It is followed by "Planning Your Garden," then "Structure and Form" and "Planting Strategy." At the end of each chapter are case studies of actual gardens to reinforce lessons given.

Chapter 1 is all about assessing needs in relation to available space, both inside and outside the house. "The more thorough the analysis, the better the end result," Stevens points out.

He tells gardeners to determine what they have in the garden—shape and size, the orientation, the views, type of soil and, the most important, the gardener's personality."

He says this will help the gardener decide what he really wants to achieve from his garden, be it a little urban jungle that is unashamedly laid back or a water garden that is perfect for sitting alone to reflect; or a vegetable and herb garden.

The second chapter covers the planning stage and how to make your ideas come to life. "The garden is our own place, a space that we can design ourselves as an entirely unique composition," Stevens points out. He shows unique garden compositions (free form, asymmetric and formal), garden shapes (wide-short, square, dog-legged, triangular, long-narrow), and more. He also shows how confined spaces can be maximized with the clever and artistic use of dividers, paths, walls and raised areas.

The third chapter underscores the importance of choosing the right materials. Stevens writes, "More often than not, a small garden is a multifunctional space and has to include a wide range of features and furnishings." He shows that the choice of material is most crucial, otherwise the area can so easily become a mess.

The final chapter concludes with planting strategies, for example, "taking a cue from the architecture," "how to evolve a planting philosophy," "planting in layers," and more.

The author has this message to readers: "In this book, I will take you through the whole design process, demystify it, and pass on some invaluable tricks of the trade."

"Small Space Gardens" is available at National Book Store

THE ORDINARY bamboo, when used prudently, can look as superb as any ornamental.

DIFFERENT textures and subtle contrasts among different elements provide much of the charm of this garden section.

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Bad breath puts a strain on PR work

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Sometime in 1997, when I was taking up my master's degree, I remember you were able to help readers with bad-breath problems. I was just amused then, but now have the same problem and desperately need your help.

I work in a public relations firm where interaction is a must. I have tried the oral hygiene practice of brushing, using mouthwash, but nothing seems to work for me. My teeth are in good condition, my checkup with my dentist is regular. Please advise me on how to solve this problem. I am sure many have the same problem.

BLANCA

Take heart. Just remember that for every problem, there is a solution. A short answer to your problem is to read the September 1994 issue of the Reader's Digest that carried the article "Kiss Bad Breath Goodbye."

The United States Food and Drug Administration has approved two patented products for bad breath. Try the Orafresh tongue cleaner; it's very effective. You can brush your teeth and floss, but your tongue also needs attention. Our tongues work like a Petri dish. It has tiny grooves that collect food debris and bacteria.

When not removed, bacteria, which thrive in airless conditions, ferment proteins and produce a smell like rotten eggs, as well as methyl mercaptan that is like barnyard odor. So you have to clean your tongue, too. Some use their toothbrush for this, but there is a wiser, better solution. The Orafresh tongue cleaner really scrapes off bacteria inside the tongue's grooves and at the back in a few strokes. The toothbrush was designed to clean teeth. Tongues now have their own cleaner.

You will be interested to know that tongue-cleaning was already practiced by wealthier classes in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Chinese consider the tongue as an indicator of good health. Tongue cleaning has now become the rage among Hollywood's elite.

Another solution mentioned in the Reader's Digest is Profresh. It contains a safe deodorizing agent called Active Chlorine Dioxide (ACL02). The rinse solution was designed to remove offensive bacteria. Gargling with the solution caps the regular daily routine of flossing, brushing and tongue cleaning.

I was told by my dentist that dental plaque also causes tooth decay. Profresh was developed by Dr. Jon L. Richter, a recognized authority on breath disorders.

You can get the two products mentioned by calling 455-2449, 928-4859 or (0919) 274-5609. A copy of the Reader's Digest article is included in the package. The Orafresh tongue cleaner can also be bought in drugstores and in the oral care or health and beauty sections in major department stores. Or ask your dentist about it.

Praying the Rosary

It is now common knowledge that the Mysteries of Light have become part of the Rosary. Can you please tell me where I can buy a prayer booklet or pamphlet on how to pray the Rosary?

ROSIE

Since the postmark of your letter shows you are in Quezon City, there is a very easy answer to your question. The pamphlet written by Fr. Richard L. Rooney, S.J., titled "Let's Pray (not just say) the Rosary," is printed by the Monfort Foundation.

Pick-up price is P10 each, available at New Guevent Building, 52 Libertad St., Mandaluyong City.

Readers outside Metro Manila who wish to order can write to the Monfort Foundation, P.O.Box 220, Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. Please send P20 for each copy ordered to cover postage.

Dear Naty Prado of Melbourne, Australia, (who, during her lunch break, surfs the Internet just to read this column),

The Lifestyle Food section is published Thursdays. The recipes will interest you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or at the PDI office

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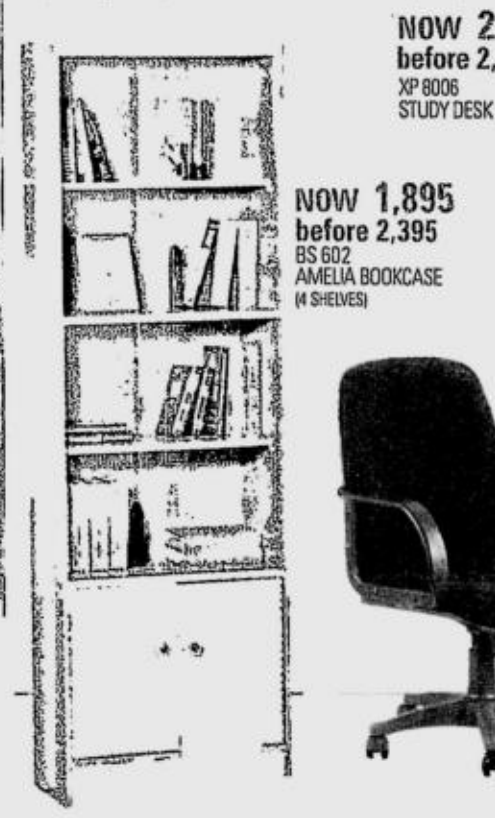

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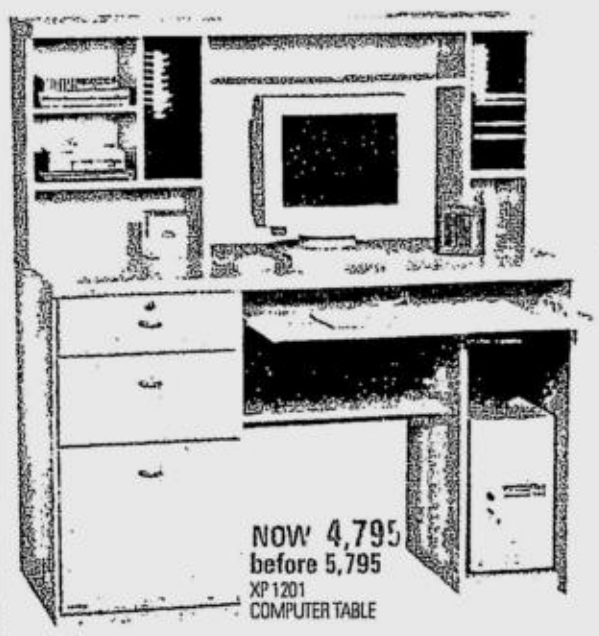

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Katipunan Greens issue manifesto

Government officials' methods should make sense environmentally more than politically or financially

LATEST reports have it that the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has the nod of the President to dig up the trees from the islands along Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. It looks like pressure from the Katipunan community prompted the MMDA to seek the help of no less than the highest official of the land to legitimize its environmental-unfriendly plan.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

But members of the Greening of Katipunan project are determined to be heard. They not only have organized themselves into Bantay Puno (Tree Watch) and will literally make a stand at the spot where the first uprooting is to take place (in front of Cravings Restaurant), they have also written a manifesto to let everyone know what they are fighting for. The Greening of Katipunan group is composed of representatives of the academe (Miriam, Ateneo, etc.), the business sector, residents and several civic organizations that have contributed to the project in one form or another through the years.

Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., president of Ateneo de Manila University, has also written directly to the MMDA chair regarding the case. We quote, in part: "(W)e fail to see how removal of the islands will improve traffic flow since the choke points are the left turn lanes into La Vista, Miriam College and Gate 3 of Ateneo. There are, in fact, no islands here which can be removed to improve traffic flow.

"On the other hand, removing the islands directly opposite Miriam College and Ateneo will remove the buffer which protects our students, pedestrians, residents and establishments from the main thoroughfare. Finally, we believe that trees play an irreplaceable environmental role, and they contribute to the psychological well-being of urban dwellers. No amount of concrete can replace (the trees). As an education institution, we recognize that one way for us to teach respect for nature is to protect our trees...."

Father Nebres reiterates the manifesto's statements regarding the community's objections to the plans of the MMDA. The MMDA, the document says, has not consulted the Katipunan group and what it intends to do is actually in violation of the Local Government Code. It also points out that "widening roads does not solve traffic problems in the long term." In fact, it encourages more vehicles to use the expanded roads. "What is even more dangerous in the case of Katipunan," it continues, "is that by removing the islands, the MMDA is turning a school zone into a highway."

The Katipunan group enumerates some expected benefits from their three-year-old project, most of which are basic environmental practices: "1. The trees would act as the lungs of the area, 'giving out oxygen while entrapping deadly particulates, the main pollutants of our air.' 2. Their roots would rapidly absorb rain water, helping to prevent floods and storing precious water in underground aquifers. 3. Since Katipunan is a school zone, the trees along the road and on its islands would act as reinforcing buffers to protect pedestrians, mostly students, from careless drivers. 4. The trees cool the environment. Studies have shown that one large mature tree has the cooling effect of five air conditioners in a given area. 5. The beauty of trees has a calming and soothing effect badly needed by city dwellers."

At a meeting called by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Eliza Gozun where representatives of the MMDA and the Katipunan community were present, she proposed holding consultations "to explore alternative engineering solutions" to the problem. But nothing came of it. MMDA has set June 16 as its deadline for widening the roads.

The Katipunan group, however, is set on "holding the fort." It is distributing copies of the Manifesto to as many people as it can and, among other activities, will hold a prayer rally on June 15. It is also reminding all passersby of their fight to save the trees through a parade and several streamers.

In the meantime, people are voicing their concern. Odette Alcantara of Earth Day Network Philippines and Artists for the Environment ask why MMDA officials do not see the connection between oppressive heat and the absence of trees. The answer, Alcantara says, "would have us growing more trees instead of cutting them."

From our e-mail, we get messages like "I study at the Ateneo and live in one of the condominiums across. Surely, Katipunan without trees would be a ghastly sight!" And, "*Itigil ang pagpatay sa mga puno... Ang mga puno ang pag-asa ng mga bata* (Stop killing the trees, They are the hope of the young)."

Well, some officials have the political will to accomplish their tasks, which should be a good thing if their methods make sense environmentally more than politically—or financially.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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Home LIFESTYLE

You gave us the scare, Doro

THE BEST news we got this week is that **Amando Doronila** is doing fine and could be leaving the hospital anytime now—with his body and mind intact.

Last week, after receiving the Hall of Fame Award of the Rotary of Manila Journalism Awards, Doro, as we all call him, felt dizzy, his knees almost giving way, and had to be rushed to the hospital.

The news set off a parade of images, moments, ideas on my mind. It triggered a sense-memory no less, like when you get a whiff of something, because I and my colleagues have been like a family to Doro and he to us, having worked with him, almost daily, since 1986 when he came back from exile in Australia. I and other staffers, and Doro would feel orphaned without each other. As one of us, who's now based abroad, said last week, after hearing the news, "The Chronicle (our ex-newspaper, now truly defunct) was a defining moment in our lives, and Doro a crucial part of it."

I should add—both professional and personal lives. He's seen us through our various personal transitions, highs and lows, noble and hilarious. I remember in June 1986, a week after we reassembled Chronicle and a few weeks after Doro came home from Australia, we rode in Doro's car, with him behind the wheels. On Ortigas Avenue, he steered the car to the opposite lane, heading against onrushing traffic. As we all screamed, it dawned on us that the guy had been used to Australia's right-hand driving.

Then, as we were all learning tennis to follow the example of our tennis-hooked editors like Doro and **Vergel Santos** (who's now known, by the way, as the dad of **Paolo Santos**), there was what we came to call as Doro's "Australian backhand." (There's not enough space here for me to describe it.)

Craft and country

But it's not only the memory of those private trivia that left me melancholic last week, it was also the realization of the standard of Philippine journalism Doro has stood for in the country. A journalism anchored on strict

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

We turn melancholic over private and professional moments, including the standards of journalism he represents

values, and commitment to craft and country. He's a practitioner whose fire in the belly never waned.

Sadly, it's also the kind of journalism I see faltering right before my eyes.

Unlike many of us, Doro is and will always be a reporter, meaning, to him, a journalist must go into "rigorous reporting." He'll never have it any other way. He will not write unless and until he knows the subject matter like the back of his hand, and has all the data needed to produce a circumspect analysis.

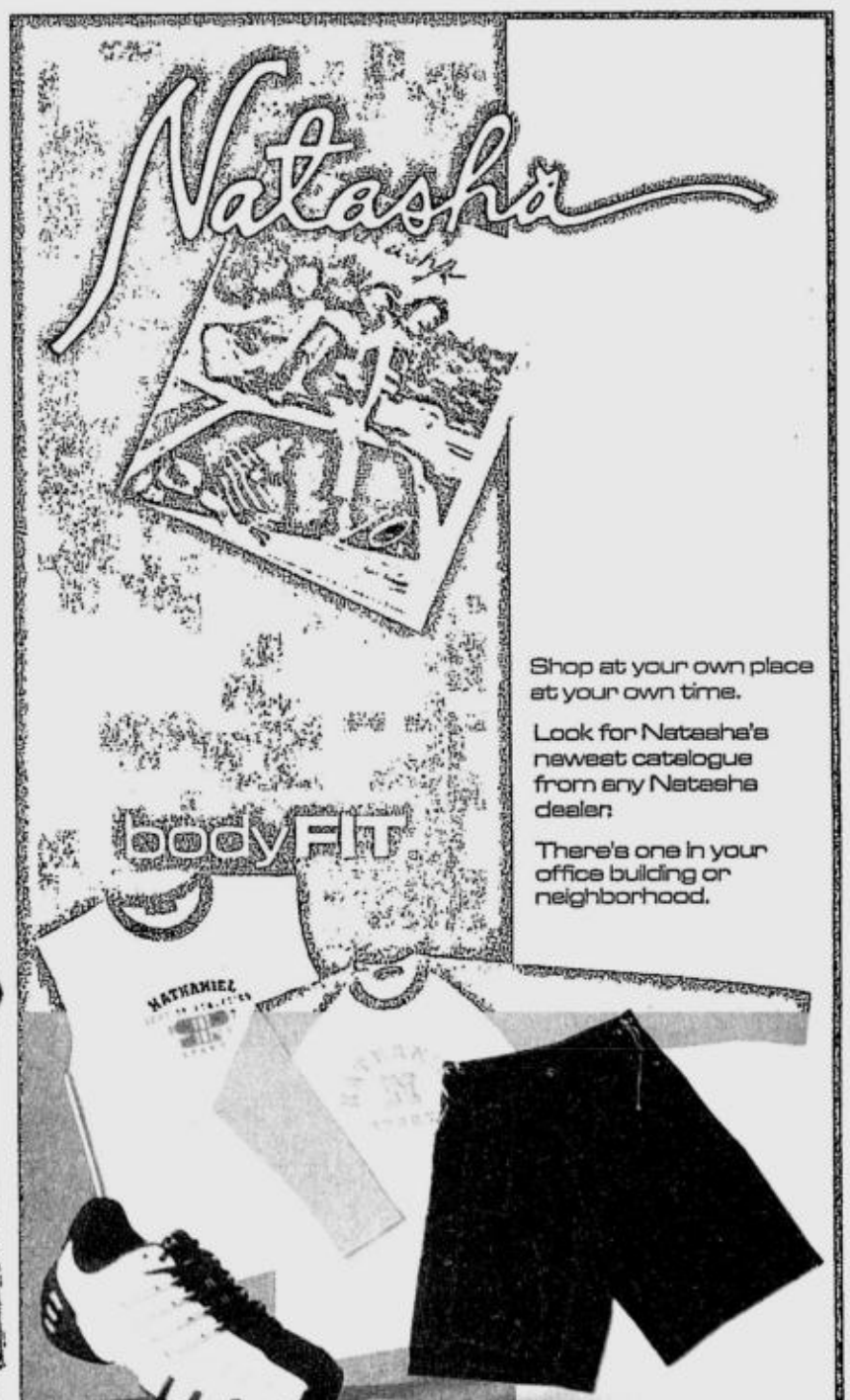
I realized this for the nth time almost three weeks ago as we had dinner at Kai, with **Ricco Ocampo** and **Doris Magsaysay Ho**. Doris wanted to learn from Doro about Saddam Hussein, Iraq and the Middle East. Doro didn't merely oblige, he went back to Mesopotamia, the history of Tigris River (how in its bed must lie tons and tons of books from ancient civilization), down to Saddam and so on. Late into the night, we even went into Napoleon and his wars—over fusion Japanese food.

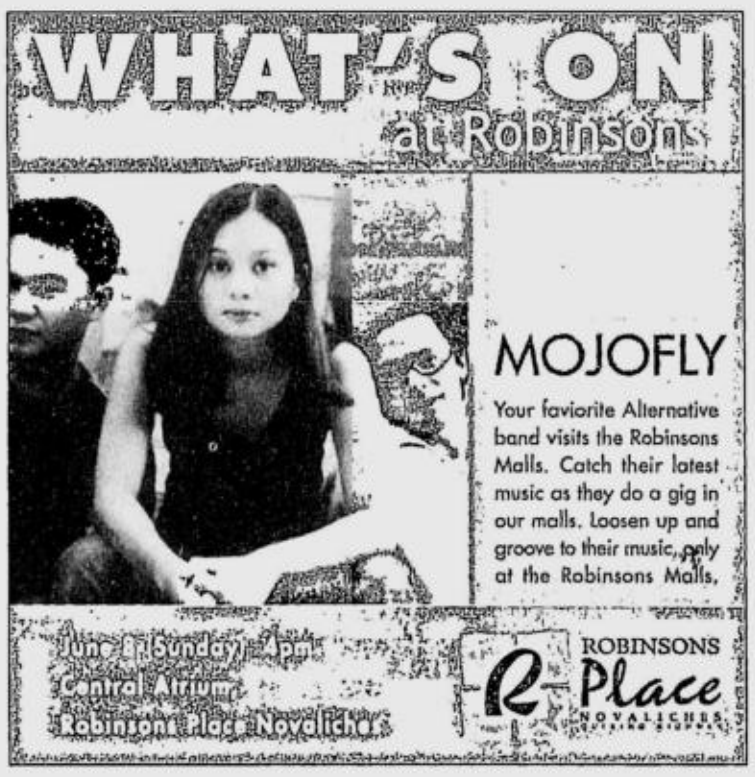
Truly, no other Filipino journalist today could approach current events with the depth of historical perspective the way Doro has always done. His pastime is reading history.

Last of the breed

I feel privileged to have been shepherded by Doro's school of journalism that sees its power as a tool of creation and change, not of abuse, which has unflinching respect for objective facts and data—and has an acute sense of *delicadeza*. It puts ethics and excellence of craft above anything else. Such journalists

YOU/ E2





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Legendary party duo

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

Budji Layug and Louie Cruz throw a party like no other

THE LAYUG boys Wilo, Ike, Budji and son David, and Bong

"WHAT becomes a legend most?" became a classic heading for a fur campaign in the '80s and '90s. It featured global celebrities like Diana Vreeland, Elizabeth Taylor, Diana Ross and even Madonna.

In the Philippines who would be on a legends list? For sure, **Cory Aquino,** for her role in global politics and making it as Time Person of the Year; **Chito Madrigal Collantes,** as the doyenne of Manila society; and **Josie Cruz Natori,** for making a fashion mark in New York and Paris.

Under jet-setters, past and present, include **Minda Feliciano, Isabel Preysler** and **Minnie Osmeña. Imelda Marcos** had been legendary locally and internationally for her fashionable *ternos* before she was dubbed the "Iron Buttefly" by international media.

In the Manila party circuit, **Budji Layug** and **Louie Cruz** are movers and shakers in design and clubbing.

Budji, a.k.a. Budjiwara, is known worldwide for his fabulous furniture designs, which have been featured in Vogue and Architectural Digest and are sold at exclusive Bloomingdale's stores in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. He is also one of the prime movers of Citem's Movement 8.

Louie Cruz is one of the truly original party animals in Manila, Cairo and London, unforgettable for his signature off-the-shoulder Sabrina tops and those wild, costumed parties he organized at the Hyatt, Remedios Circle and good old Giraffe club for many years. His Cleopatra, Suzie Wong and Lucy Cruz transformations were elegantly divine.

During Louie's party-organizing peak, he could have given our fashion iconoclast **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** a run for her money.

Bosom buddies Louie and Budji threw a joint party at Bykes café on Pasong Tamo last Saturday to celebrate years of living and loving on Planet Earth, and it was a riot.

The party was just brimming with excitement and movement. You could tell that the crowd really knew how to have a good time after years of bacchanalia, stuff and fodder for urban legend status as far as parties go.

Samba music performed by **Eileen Sison** and her band set the mood for an all-night dance and song party. It was spontaneous and spunky.

LARRY Leviste, Carla Tengco and Antonio Garcia

AMANDA and Bong Tirol

LOUIE Cruz flanked by Susan Reyes, Eva Abesamis and Jeannie Goulbourn

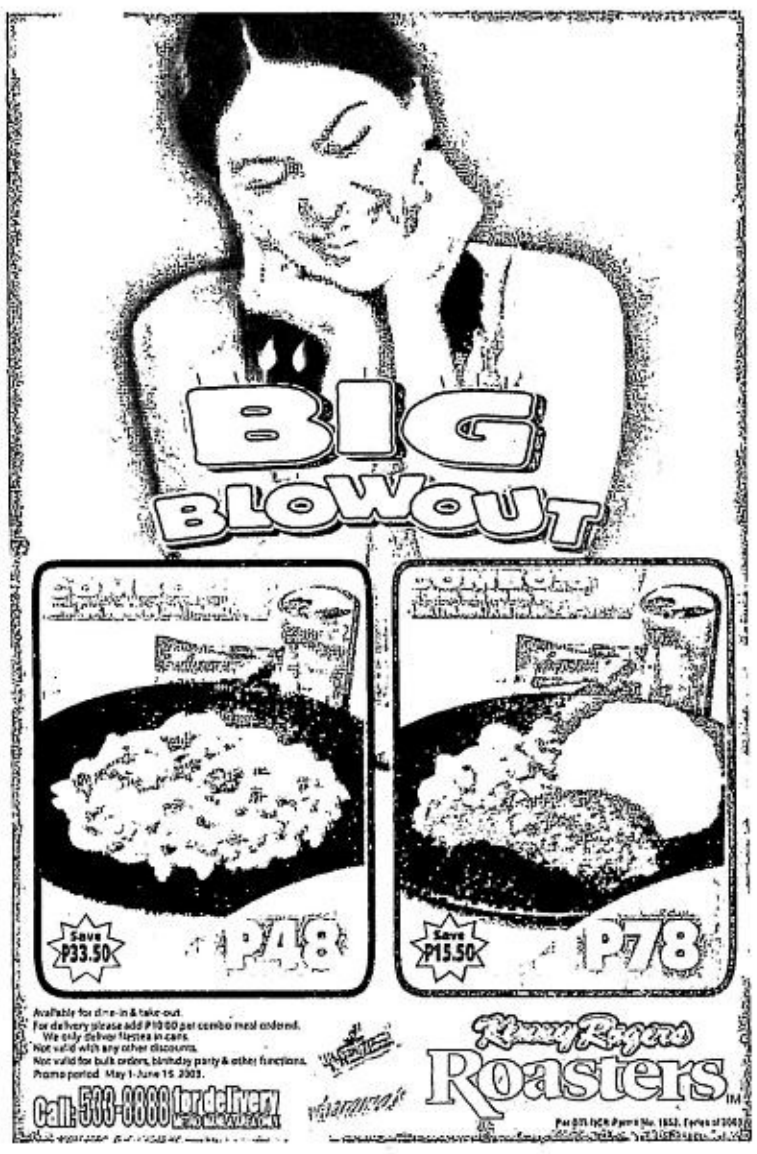
SEN. Serge Osmeña

Some of the revelers were Sen. **Serge Osmeña,** most-talked-about couple **Conrad Onglao** and **Susan Reyes, Eva Abesamis, Alya Honsasan, Pete Limjoco** and gorgeous wife, **Gabby Roa,** brothers **Atom** and **Danby Henares,** the **Dario** family and **Rachy Cuna.**

VIRGIL Reyes and Cora Relova

ALYA Honasan, Gus Albor and Freida Dario

TITO Manapat, Rita Sanson and Sandro Mike Rieta



You gave us the scare, Doro

From page E1

would die before they indulge in self-promotion.

Hype, superficiality of material or puffery aren't for them. I can go on and on but I get nostalgic beyond repair when I go into these things. Doro is the last of his breed. But, make no mistake about it, he's forever young.

Doro has never lost the sense of wonder of a child or a student. He's forever learning; like now, he's into writing food and wine. He's also told me countless times that he wants to review fashion—but I've turned a deaf ear.

We're so glad that Doro is on the road to recovery, and the INQUIRER wants readers and friends to know that it is grateful to all those who showed their concern about his health.

In no time, I know, Doro will be back in the newsroom, and it is hoped, on the tennis court where, we promise, we'll even welcome his Australian backhand. Whew! You gave us a scare, Doro.

Flip over F4

There's an odd phenomenon going on. People are flipping over a quartet of Taiwanese guys—the F4 on the soap "Meteor Garden." I didn't believe so until I learned of kids as young as nine knowing the names of the Chinese guys by heart, and their characters—Dao Ming Shi, Hua Zi Lei, Xi Men, Mei Zhou. From them I also learned that their lady love is Shan Tsai (spell-check?).

One afternoon last week in the office, I was surprised to see one editor spreading out a range of products by the window, products enough to fill the space—all with the faces of F4 on them. Soft-drink cans, cellphone covers, pins, badges, paperweights, CDs, mousepads. My god, it's a thriving industry for these pretty-faced Chinese guys with straight-plated long hair. I got all the more surprised when I learned from our Starstudio editor that these were being collected by a 60-plus-year-old woman whose dream is to meet these guys.

So that tells you that their market cuts across ages and social classes. The revenge of the SARS-infected market on the SARS-free market (that's supposed to be us).

Bench in L.A.

Speaking of markets, Bench is eyeing Los Angeles. After Guam, China, **Ben Chan** is simply unstoppable, no matter the economic outlook. Bench will have a store in L.A. soon—a feat for a Filipino brand out to crash into the American retail market.

Lia's back

After living in Spain for a year where her father **Lani Bernardo** is the Philippine ambassador, Lia **Bernardo** is flying back to Manila next month, hopefully to stay put. She and bosom friend **Marichelle Ligon** have put up a business etiquette and image consulting services firm that will conduct seminars for business firms.

Taking after her mom **Conchitina,** Lia has been conducting such seminars, and even writing on them, for 12 years now. Just in May, she did image enhancement seminars in Morocco. (You can reach them at etiquette-consultants@hotmail.com.)

Neal's gallery

Here's sunshine news for culture and lifestyle. **Neal Oshima** is opening a photo/new media gallery in what used to be the Luz Gallery in Makati. It'll be a café and wine bar, too.

Neal hasn't been doing commercial or editorial photography lately because he's moved on to other exciting projects, such as high-end books (including one on Lolo Dad's, the fine dining place). He's also with **Budji Layug** in penetrating the Australian market for Layug's furniture.

Leather furniture exhibit showcases different lifestyles

DARK leather furniture against a minimalistic area design

From page E4

to show—that the next trend in interior designing is really going to be casual elegance.

Exciting colors, such as cherry red, has injected a new life to leather. The color black has likewise been upgraded by adding sheen to it.

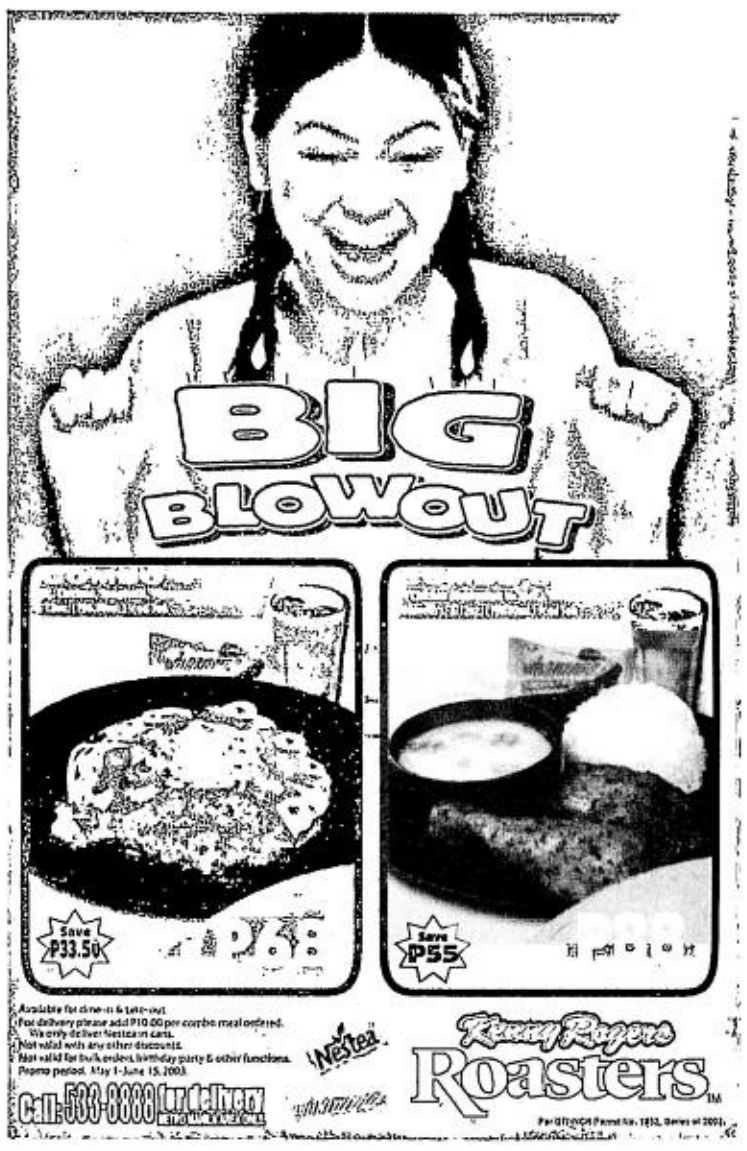
The ten vignettes, each depicting a lifestyle for different people, are: Raggiante, for newlyweds; Fresco for the new breed of bachelors; Lucente for women of substance and power; Rossore for condo living; Mescolanza for entertaining; Greggio for bachelors, artists and trailblazers; Scuro for the minimalists; Dolce for the enjoyment of all things nice and easy—prose and poetry, strings, some lazy afternoon tea, or a night cap with intimate friends; Perfectto, the perfect living set-up for the too busy, dashing debonair; and Camaleonte.

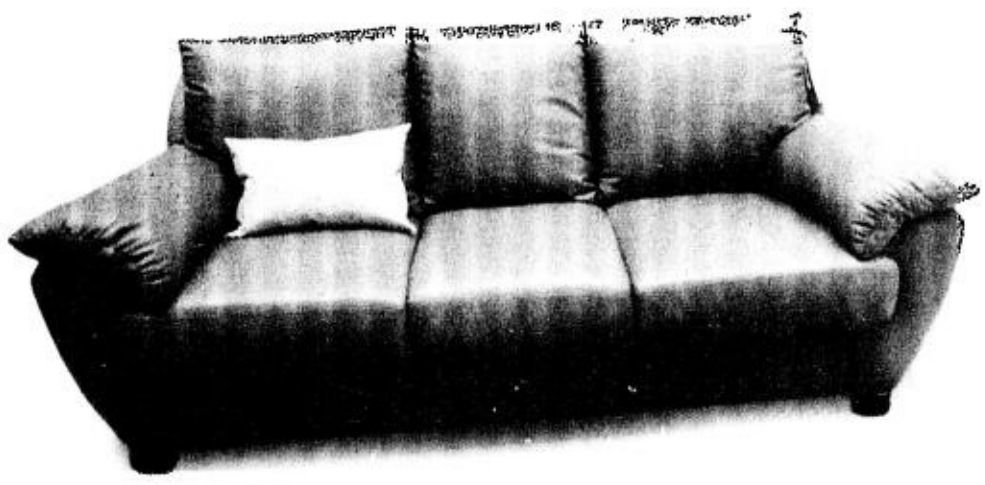
Now celebrating its 25th year in the country, Blims remains as the industry leader and a byword in one-stop shopping for high quality yet affordable home and office furniture. Its flagship store is located in Ayala Avenue, right in the heart of Makati Business District. Showrooms are located in top shopping centers such as Greenbelt 1, Glorietta 1, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Supermall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Novaliches, SM Southmall, Alabang Town Center, and Ayala Center in Cebu.

Blims LaNouva Italian Leather Collection is ongoing up to June 14 at the Ayala Mall, Glorietta 3, Makati City.

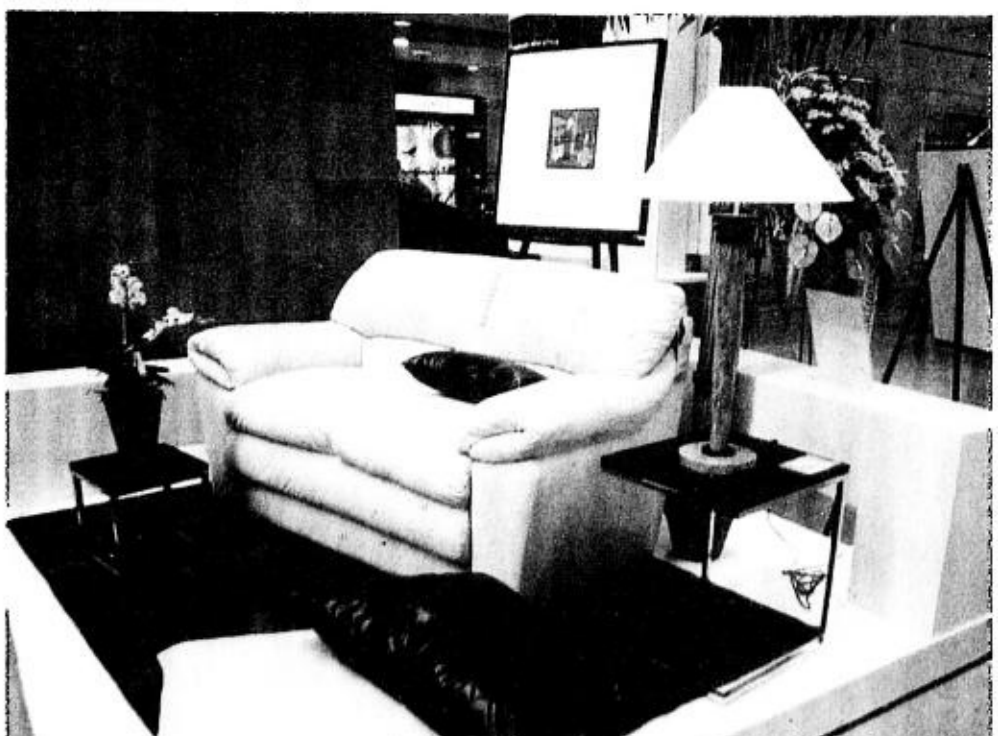
DEEP red flushed leather sofa has curved frame and stand-alone stance.

PERFECT area for entertaining guests, with large and comfy leather sofas in elegant neutral color.





BLUE leather contemporary sofa



COZY living space, with leather sofa in champagne, is so right for the enjoyment of all things nice and easy—prose and poetry, strings, some lazy afternoon tea, or a night cap with intimate friends.

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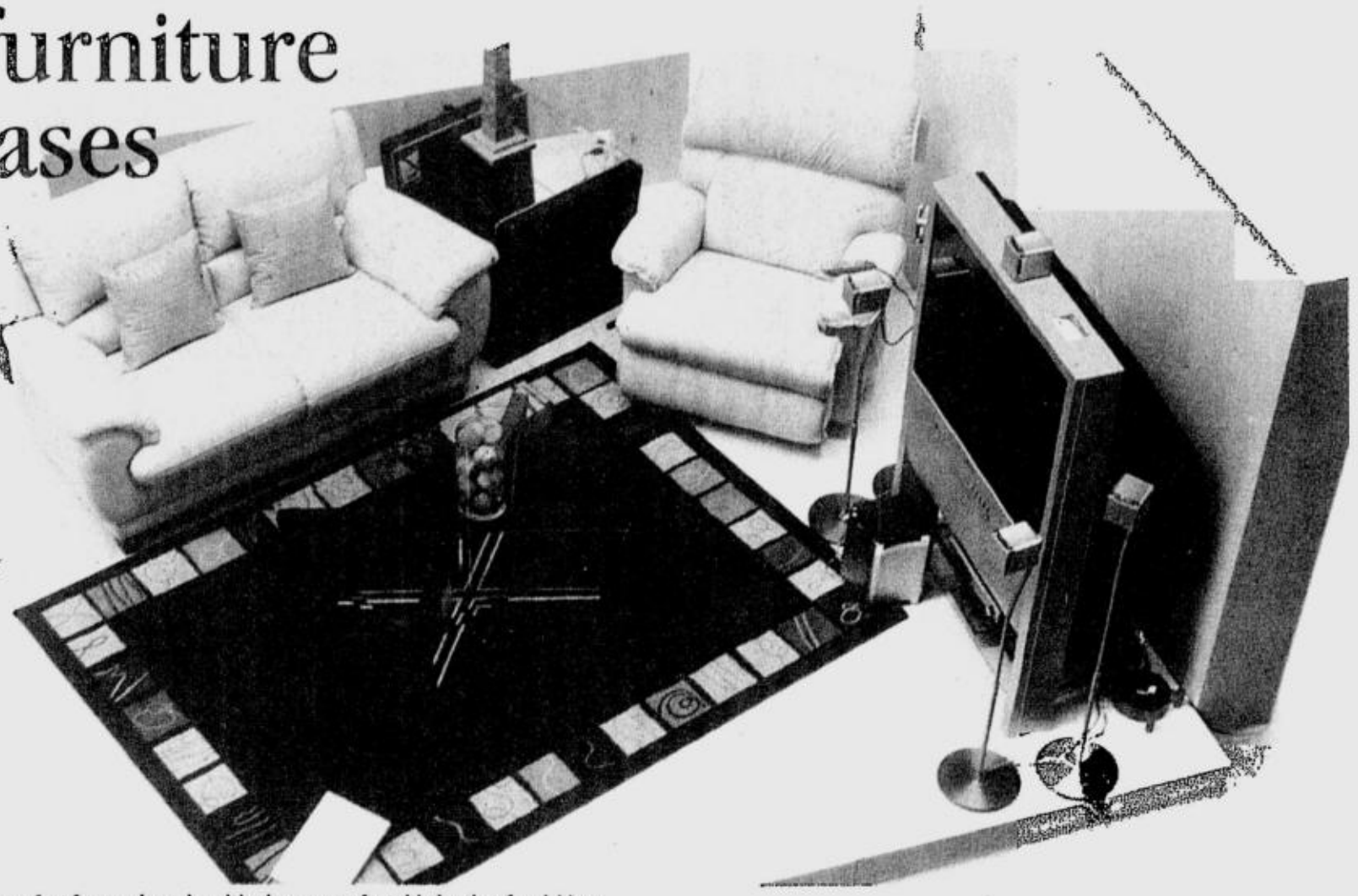
Leather furniture exhibit showcases different lifestyles



LIVING space perfect for newlyweds, with plump, comfortable leather furnishing

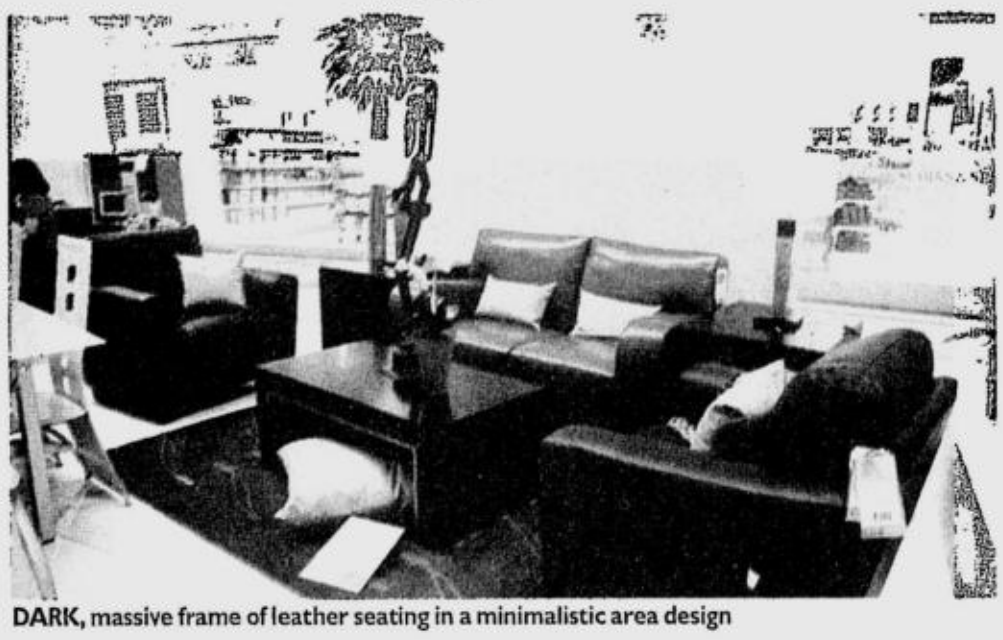
Photos by Roger Carpio

FOR its ongoing exhibit at the Ayala Mall of Glorietta 3 in Makati City, Blims has tapped noted interior designer Leo Almeria of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers to come up with ten vignettes using leather furniture.

Inspired by Blims legacy of fine furniture and LaNouva's quality furniture, Almeria's showcases the myriad mood variations and lifestyles that leather can create.

Using traditional pieces like wood, greens and even fruits in a casual manner, the vignettes have that "lived-in" look, not-too-shabby chic. Which is what the exhibit wants

LEATHER/ E3



DARK, massive frame of leather seating in a minimalistic area design

Casual yet elegant Italian leather and lots of mix-matching of colors, textures, accessories and accents fill living spaces

ITALIAN leather sofa perfectly complemented by contemporary accents

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Nylon Mailman Bags

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Girls' Blouse Uniform

Tank Tops

Jogging Pants

Sport Shirts

Boys' Polo Uniform

School Tees

Girls' Skirt Uniform

Boys' Shorts Uniform

3-in-1 Boys' Shirt Set

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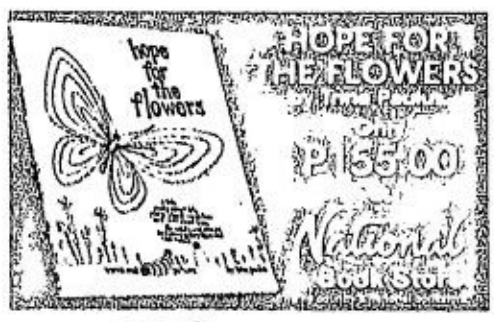


12 cardinal shopping rules

SINCE you just arrived from the US, I'm sure you did your fair share of shopping. I am leaving soon and would really appreciate it if you could share some practical shopping tips and places where I can find good bargains. I will be in New York, but I'm hoping to move around a bit, so please include information on other cities as well.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Shopping in the US was so exciting and overwhelming because of the numerous, endless choices and the availability of almost everything one's fashionable heart desires. I was like a kid in a candy store when I stepped into the hallowed halls of Barney's and Neiman Marcus or strolled along tony Fifth Avenue.

But I took hold of myself and made a conscious effort not to get carried away. In order to shop intelligently, I mentally devised some simple rules, which I tried my best to adhere to. Here then are my 12 cardinal shopping rules:

1. Establish a budget

It will help to know just how much money you can afford to spend so you don't spend beyond your credit-card limits and your budget. Before you even set foot on any retail store, make sure you know how much you can splurge.

2. Prioritize what you want to buy

When working with a budget, it is vital to know how you want to spend your money. For instance, if you are in the market for a new designer tote, make it a point to purchase this first. Then and only then should you buy other items. Make a list so you don't get derailed.

3. Research

Actually, you are already doing this by sending me this query. But a little more research won't hurt. Why not surf the Net for shopping malls or outlets? You can also ask friends who travel a lot or who live in the cities you are visiting for tips and tricks. If you are staying in a hotel, you may ask the concierge to give suggestions. You can strategize and map out your shopping jaunt (and therefore, save time for more shopping!), if you know exactly where you want to go and what you want to buy.

4. Wear comfortable shoes

This tip is actually a no-brainer, but just in case you decide to go shopping à la Carrie Bradshaw in 4" heels, I strongly suggest that you don't! You will be doing a whole lot of walking. Blocks, blocks and even more city blocks, and miles and miles of mall space, so do wear sensible shoes.

5. Consider taxes

Shopping tax differs from state to state, so you might want to take this into consideration. New York and California charge around 8 percent, while Hawaii charges only around 4. There is no shopping tax in New Jersey, so if you have the chance to visit the Garden State, do the bulk of your shopping there.

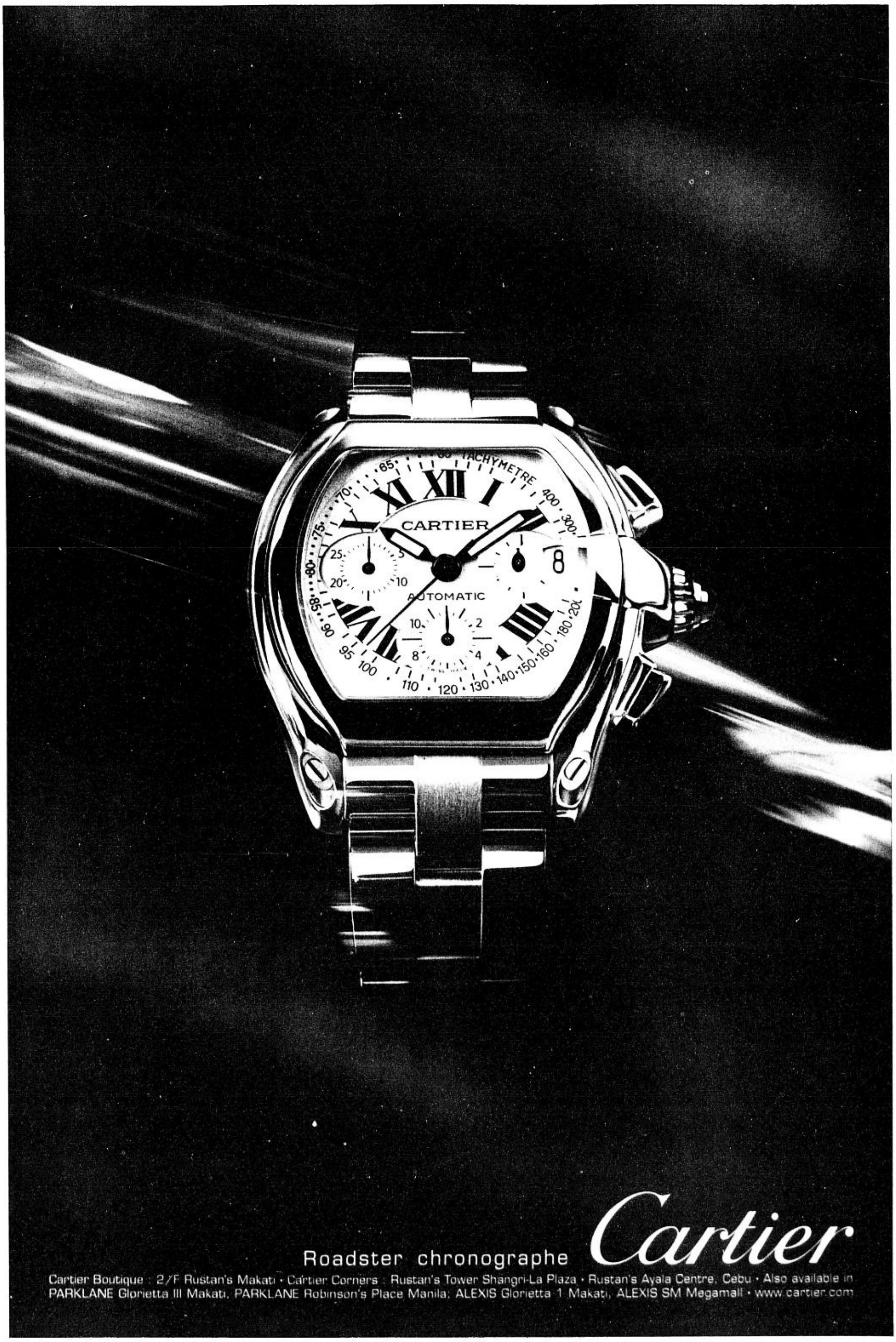
6. Shop in outlets and discount stores

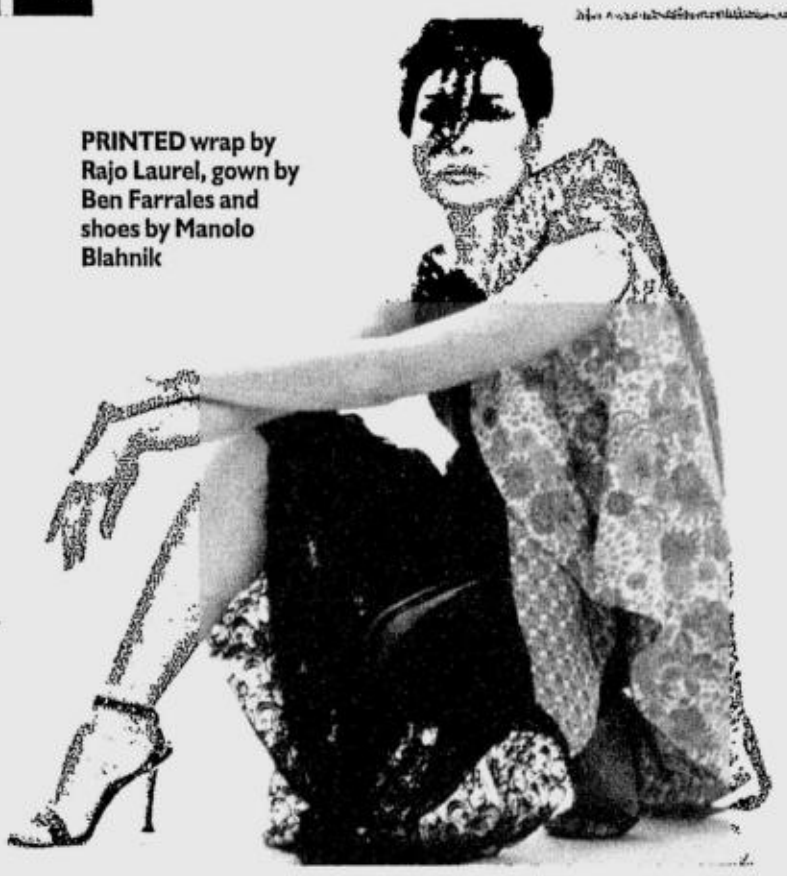
Make it a point to visit outlet and discount stores in your area. There are a couple in almost every city in the US, or at least the ones I visited. You can buy items at 20-50 percent less than their retail price. Sometimes, you can get even more discounts. The items in these places are not current season but still stylish.

• New York

You can go to Woodbury Commons, which is around an hour north of Manhattan. There you can find a whole slew of designer brands from Prada and Miu Miu to Gucci and Tod's. They

12 CARDINAL/ F4





PRINTED wrap by Rajo Laurel, gown by Ben Farrales and shoes by Manolo Blahnik

She is always interesting, comfortable and elegant

'50S STYLE. Shot in Balara by Neal Oshima for a line called Ingga

The always put-together Tina Ocampo

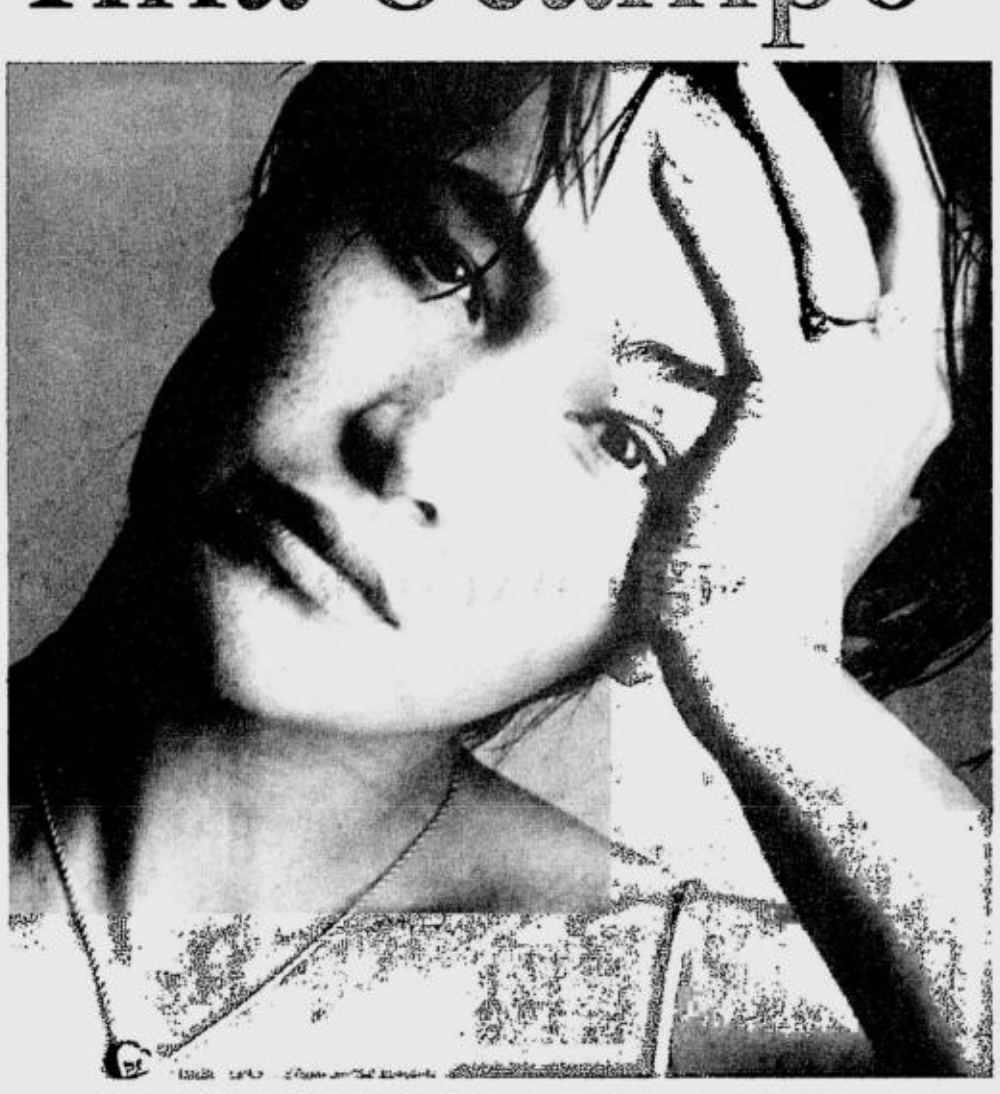
By Anton San Diego

There are women who look good in anything and Tina Ocampo is one of them. Blessed with height and a beautiful face, she not only deserves a second look but actually commands it.

During a five-day trip to Cambodia, I saw Tina in all her different looks, from morning to evening, and she was impeccable. When we visited the temples in Angkor Wat, she was dressed in all-white. We hammed for the cameras, sitting on rocks, by the trees. At the end of the day, she looked as pristine as when we first got on the bus.

STYLE EYES

One would think her modeling experience or her being the creative director for MIX, Black Shop, Anonymous, etc. gave her the edge. But we all know that not all models or store proprietors dress well. My personal opinion is that it's definitely innate. Tina stands out in the way she moves and converses and how she carries her clothes.



BACK IS BEAUTIFUL. In a Joe Salazar denim deconstructed dress, photographed by Wig Tysmans. PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER

STYLE AWARDS. In a Balenciaga gown

CHIC CHART

Toiletries
Shampoo/conditioner: Kiehls
Toothpaste: Colgate mint
Soap: Anonymous
Scent/perfume: Té cologne

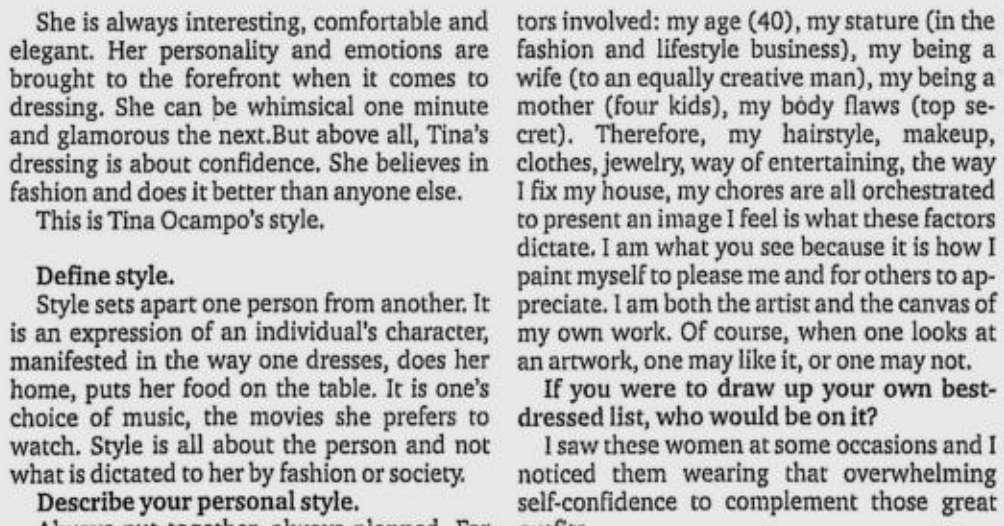
Makeup
Lipstick: Shu Uemura Lip Rouge
Shade: Nude N931
Moisturizer: Obagi
Blush: Earth by Face Stockholm
Foundation: Makeup Forever matte velvet
Eye shadow: Love! Shu Uemura yellow green
Mascara: Shu Uemura black
Sunscreen: Obagi

Clothes
Jeans: Habitual in MIX Greenbelt 3
Top: Tracy Reese summer collection also from MIX
T-shirt: Basics from Anonymous
Pajamas: All-white Christian Dior—still the same ones I got 14 years ago. Very durable.
Stores: Collete, Paris; Maria Luisa, Paris; Barneys, New York; Kirna Zabete, Soho; Soda, Bangkok; Joyce, Hong Kong; Tokyu Hands, Shibuya, Tokyo; Kish, Philippines; Didier Ludot, Paris; Resurrection, Nolita, New York; Christian Tortu, Takashima and New York
Labels: Balenciaga, Marc Jacobs, APC

Accessories
Handbag: Hermes, Jamin Puech; I also like the Tina bag designed by Rafé.
Watch: Vintage Corum
Comfort shoes: Capezio ballet shoes
Evening shoes: Manolo Blahnik and YSL
Sneakers: Adidas and Dries Van Noten

Hi-tech stuff
Mobile phone: Nokia 7210
Computer: I use my daughter's
Television: No TV in the house

Others
Restaurant: Kai Greenbelt 2, Ebun Greenbelt 3, Sala in Malate
Bottled water: Wilkins
Florist: My favorite, Antonio of Mabolo, but I also do my own.
Soda: No soda, please; just oolong tea.
Gym : Hmmm!
Magazine: Surface, French Vogue, British Elle, Décor



She is always interesting, comfortable and elegant. Her personality and emotions are brought to the forefront when it comes to dressing. She can be whimsical one minute and glamorous the next.But above all, Tina's dressing is about confidence. She believes in fashion and does it better than anyone else.

This is Tina Ocampo's style.

Define style.

Style sets apart one person from another. It is an expression of an individual's character, manifested in the way one dresses, does her home, puts her food on the table. It is one's choice of music, the movies she prefers to watch. Style is all about the person and not what is dictated to her by fashion or society.

Describe your personal style.

Always put together, always planned. For anything I put on my body, there is a reason. Any way I put on a scarf, there is a reason. When you see me in red lipstick, there is a reason. The reason is personal, the style is evolving.

Do you think you are stylish?

I am very involved in fashion because it is my job and I love it. In the course of my being the buyer, merchandiser and creative director of my companies, I have trained my eyes to edit. I edit my style considering so many factors involved: my age (40), my stature (in the fashion and lifestyle business), my being a wife (to an equally creative man), my being a mother (four kids), my body flaws (top secret). Therefore, my hairstyle, makeup, clothes, jewelry, way of entertaining, the way I fix my house, my chores are all orchestrated to present an image I feel is what these factors dictate. I am what you see because it is how I paint myself to please me and for others to appreciate. I am both the artist and the canvas of my own work. Of course, when one looks at an artwork, one may like it, or one may not.

FLOWING top by Helmut Lang, pants by Yohji Yamamoto, YSL shoes and necklace worn as a bracelet, a gift from Tingting Cojuangco

If you were to draw up your own best-dressed list, who would be on it?

I saw these women at some occasions and I noticed them wearing that overwhelming self-confidence to complement those great outfits.

Bea Valdes—Tatler Ball 2002

Lizzie Zobel—wedding of Jamby Madrigal

Patricia Cu-Unjieng—Inno Sotto gala, 2002

Joyce Oreña—my 38th birthday party

Rina Ortiz—I seldom see her out at night but in our YPO (Young Presidents Organization) spouses forums, she would always look her best.

Tingting Cojuangco—Rajo Laurel show, 2001, NBC Tent

Celine Lopez—birthday of Millet Mananquil, 2003

Bea Zobel Jr.—Tatler feature, April 2003 issue (in Joe Salazar gowns and her fabulous jewelry)

Who do you think are the stylish men?

Jaime Augusto Zobel and Raul Manzano

Who are your favorite local/ international designers?

Local: I have always admired Pepito Albert—for his genius and talent. He is also a sculptor and painter. International: Josephus Thimister, Dries Van Noten, Yohji Yamamoto and Azzedine Alaia.

If you had a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

If I was in the '50s, definitely the Duchess of Windsor, Wallis Simpson. I am continuously studying her eccentricities.

What did you wear on your wedding day?

A dramatic Ben Farrales wedding gown, which showed his incredible skill in draping jersey.

What is your biggest extravagance?

Extravagance defined as excessive—plates, glasses, vases and shoes. Extravagance defined as wasteful—flowers. Extravagance defined as theatrical—makeup. Extravagance defined as beyond—restaurant-hopping in New York.

Beauty secret or regimen?

I am into Obagi but I am considering an alternative in Dr. Javellana. I am thinking of visiting her one day. Dr. Rocero for dental maintenance; Piandré Salon for my hot oil and waxing; Herman of Qen Qui Salon Hong Kong Central for haircut; Edwin of Rodger Craig Peninsula (now Emphasis) for maintenance; Eric Maningat for hair and makeup styling; The Spa for massage; Manfred of Basement Salon for coloring; nails by Becky of Hairbytes Salon in San Antonio arcade.

If you could have access to anyone's closet, whose would it be?

The Duchess of Windsor (not just her closet but her entire house); Joyce Ma (residence in Paris and in Hong Kong).

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

Mostly in the '80s when I was just starting out as a model. Recently? Hmmm... I would rather not tell anyone.

What is on your wish-list right now?

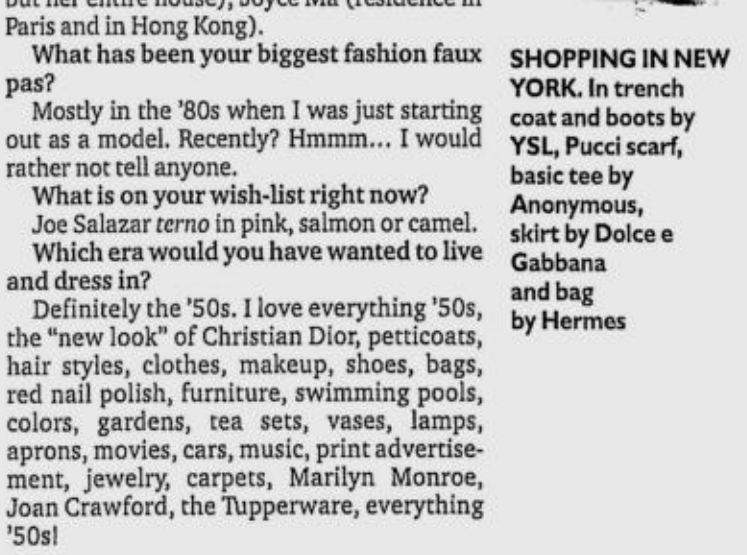
Joe Salazar *terno* in pink, salmon or camel.

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

Definitely the '50s. I love everything '50s, the "new look" of Christian Dior, petticoats, hair styles, clothes, makeup, shoes, bags, red nail polish, furniture, swimming pools, colors, gardens, tea sets, vases, lamps, aprons, movies, cars, music, print advertisement, jewelry, carpets, Marilyn Monroe, Joan Crawford, the Tupperware, everything '50s!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

SHOPPING IN NEW YORK. In trench coat and boots by YSL, Pucci scarf, basic tee by Anonymous, skirt by Dolce e Gabbana and bag by Hermes



IN VINTAGE Geoffrey Beene, photographed by Neal Oshima, 2002

Men's wear of diverse hues and cuts

FEELING happy? Go casual chic with a bright orange polo shirt from Celio.

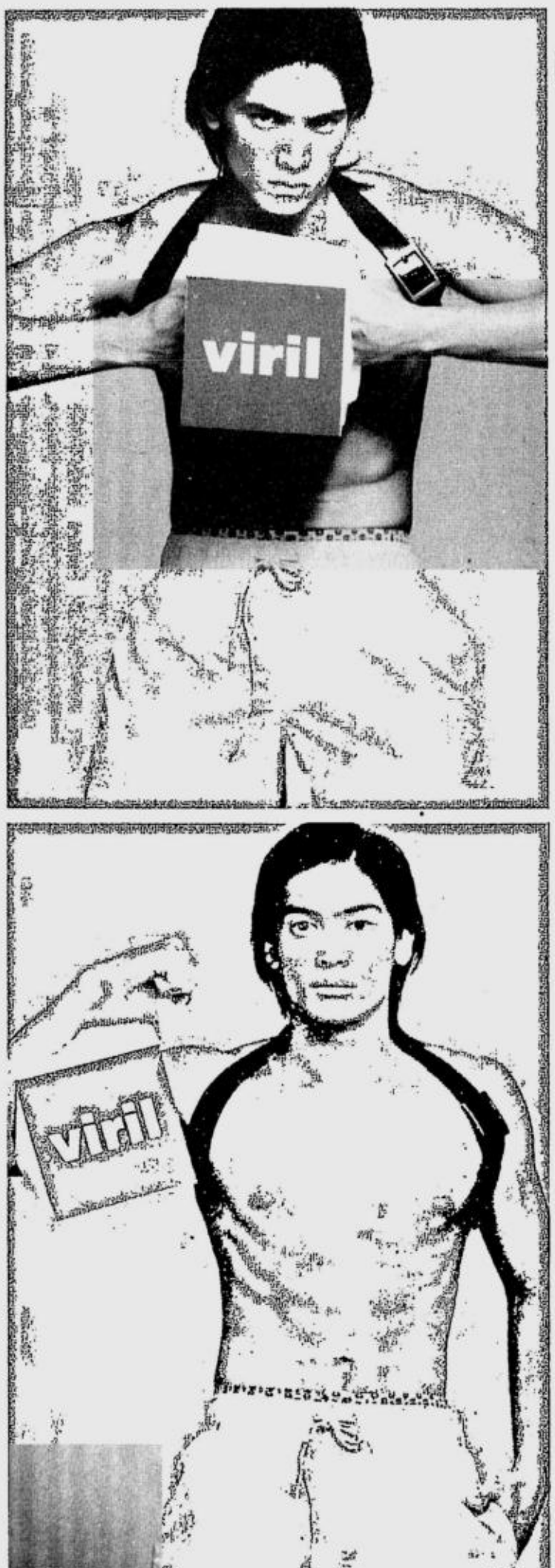
CELIO'S latest collection is all about "bringing out the emotions and passions of the modern and stylishly comfortable man."

Thus, its colors cover all shades, from deep and dark to dusted and grayed, but with fresh twists such as splashes of brown and orange. Completing the whole look are the soft lines and crisp, attractive cuts that are the hallmarks of Celio clothes.

Visit Celio at Greenbelt 3 and at The Podium.

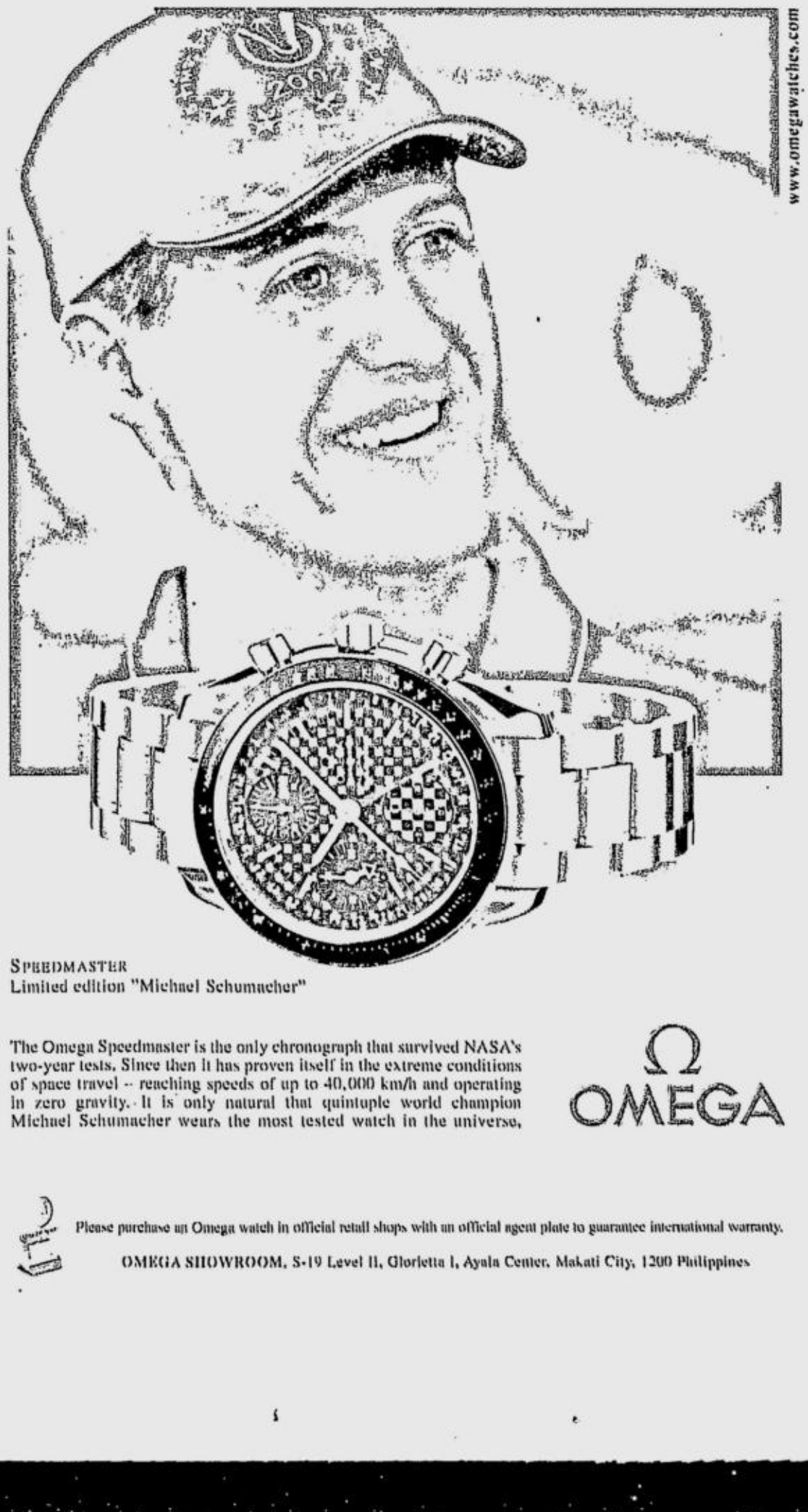
FEELING kinda down? Slip into a pair of relaxed fit linen pants and classic long sleeves.

FEELING aggressive? Get ready for any action with a 100-percent cotton Celio Sport shirt, available in blue, gray, indigo and á variety of hues.



FEELING manly and confident? Show your bod with cool boxers and surf shorts.

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER'S CHOICE



SPEEDMASTER
Limited edition "Michael Schumacher"

The Omega Speedmaster is the only chronograph that survived NASA's two-year tests. Since then it has proven itself in the extreme conditions of space travel -- reaching speeds of up to 40,000 km/h and operating in zero gravity. It is only natural that quintuple world champion Michael Schumacher wears the most tested watch in the universe.

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Please purchase an Omega watch in official retail shops with an official agent plate to guarantee international warranty.

OMEGA SHOWROOM, S-19 Level II, Glorietta I, Ayala Center, Makati City, 1200 Philippines

12 cardinal shopping rules

Be rational—that way you buy only what you need and love, and not overshoot your budget

From page F1

also carry stores like Nike, Puma and Adidas. If you have no car, you can take the Greyline bus to and from the Port Authority Terminal at 42nd and 8th.

Former beauty queen and thespian Gem Padilla, who lived in NY on and off for seven years, shops at Century 21 near Ground Zero. The store carries merchandise that are only one season old, so you might want to check it out.

• **Orlando**

If you happen to go to Orlando, Florida, try shopping at Premium Outlets, which is very near the Disney theme parks. It's operated by the same group as Woodbury Commons and is also quite superior, brand and shopping experience-wise.

You can also try the Belz Outlet in Orlando. It's much bigger than Premium Outlets so you have more choices, but a lot of the shops they carry are not as popular as the ones in Premium.

• **L.A.**

There are also several outlet shops in Los Angeles, but they are about an 1½-2 hours away. According to my fellow shopaholics, Cabazon is by far the more superior outlet mall in the west coast.

• **San Francisco**

In San Francisco, you can shop in the Esprit Factory Outlet or the Great Mall, which are both near the city. If you have more time, go to Gilroy, which is about 1½-hours away, for bigger bargains.

You should also shop in stores like DSW, a discount shoe store that carries a wide selection of designer shoes at more affordable prices; Marshal's, another discount store with racks and racks of designer clothes; Off the Fifth, the outlet of Saks 5th; and Nordstrom Rack, the discount store of Nordstrom. These stores are available in most cities.

When shopping in places like the above-mentioned, it's a good idea to ask the sales staff when the new merchandise is brought in so you have more choices and available sizes.

7. Shop in thrift stores for vintage finds

A lot of people go to secondhand stores for one-of-a-kind vintage pieces. There are popular stores like Lily et Cie in L.A., but their items can be quite pricey. You might want to try those out-of-the-way thrift dives or flea markets (similar to our very own *ukay-ukay*) for cheaper finds. A good friend, who was also in San Francisco for the summer, went to Haight Ashbury and was able to buy a unique, embellished denim jacket for a mere $18.50.

8. Go to sample sales with friends

If you have friends who have the inside track on sample sales, ask them to inform you so you can go with them. My fashionable New Yorker friend invited me to the Valentino sample sale, but I unfortunately couldn't go because I was leaving for Manila the next day. She was able to buy a pair of Valentino shoes for only $60.

9. Check out the clearance racks

Make sure that you always go to the back of whatever store you are in to check out the clearance racks. You'll surely find super cheap basics like tees for $5 or even less. You can also find racks of shoes on sale and conveniently arranged according to size.

10. Avoid weekend shopping

To minimize stress, shop during non-peak hours and days. Go to the outlets and discount stores on weekdays so you don't have to contend with the frenzied crowd. If you are in the city, shop in the morning or afternoon. Avoid after-office shopping as the stores fill up then. Try to keep your shopping experience fun and stress-free.

11. Canvass and compare

I normally don't follow this rule when I'm on a trip. Usually, one never has the chance to go back to a certain store to buy a particular item. But if you have the luxury of time, make a little effort to canvass and compare so you get your money's worth. Before you finally purchase something, check out other boutiques for different styles and prices. Unless what you are buying is rather basic and reasonably priced.

12. Buy what you love

The last and most important rule is to only buy what you really love. Don't purchase an item simply because it's a bargain. Most of the time, you'll end up not even using that particular piece. So, love what you buy, buy what you love. And remember, patience is a virtue. That and an eagle eye for good-quality merchandise will definitely help you reap your just fashion rewards!

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Stock up on jeans

ROBINSONS Department Store's (RDS) "Jeans and Shirt Festival," which runs until June 15, offers a wide selection of these essential fashion items. Avail of your favorite style and brand at up to 50-percent discount and get the chance to win Nokia 3530 Sun Cellular prepaid phone kits for every P200 purchase. The raffle draw is on June 25.

Featured are an assortment of jeans that are washed (stone or acid), sandblasted, stretched and woven. Cuts come in different forms lye straight, bootleg, flared, engineered and capri. There are also assorted tees, from basic tanks to flirty and sexy printed tops.

FLARED blue ash-colored jeans paired with a pink hooded cotton sleeveless top.

www.pldt.com.ph PLDT

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PLDT celebrates Independence Day with big Hype discounts!

Celebrate your freedom from *low batt*, *no signal* and *no load* for a lot less. Every P500 purchase/s at SM Dept. Stores gives you a P500 discount on a Biloba unit with a Hype Plan subscription. You'll also get 3 months of the Hype Plan for FREE! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

EXCLUSIVE AT SM DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE* FROM JUNE 7 TO 15, 2003.

WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO JOIN:

1) All existing PLDT residential and business direct lines subscribers (excluding PLDT Telesulit and Teletipid).
2) All new PLDT Post Paid residential and business direct lines installation (those who paid for the line) during the promo period.

PROMO OFFER:

For every P500 single or accumulated receipt purchase/s at participating SM department stores, a PLDT Hype plan subscriber of P250 or P550 will get:

• P500 or 25% discount on the PLDT Hype Biloba unit:

UNIT/MODEL	REGULAR PRICE W/ A HYPE PLAN	PROMO PRICE	DISCOUNT	SAVINGS
ATLINKS/BILOBA	P2,000.00	P1,500.00	P500.00	25%

• PLUS FREE 3 months subscription fee of the PLDT Hype Plan

Just present receipt at PLDT Hype booth located at SM Dept. Store to avail of the promo.

PROMO PERIOD AND COVERAGE:

Promo offer is valid only during the SM Freedom Sale, June 7-15, 2003 in the following SM department store branches:

METRO MANILA: SM Ortigas, SM Harrison, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Bicutan, SM Fairview, SM Manila, SM North Edsa, SM Las Piñas, SM Quiapo, SM Makati, SM Cubao

PROVINCIAL: SM Cebu, SM Delgado, SM Manduriao, SM Bacoor, SM Davao

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1) Subscriber must enroll in a PLDT Hype Plan P250 or P550 by accomplishing a PLDT HYPE application form.
2) There could only be one plan for each direct line.
3) PLDT reserves the right not to sell PLDT HYPE texting devices to subscribers whose lines are temporarily/permanently disconnected.
4) Should they discontinue subscriptions to plan for less than a year, they will be charged a termination fee of P1,500.
5) Should subscriber downgrade plan from P550 to P250 for less than a year, he will be charged a downgrade fee of P300.

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

See flyers for details.

*Except Cagayan de Oro and Pampanga.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #2304, Series of 2003

LIFESTYLE Beauty

Makeup that won't run despite humidity

THE RAINY season has started, but while the weather is cooler, humidity has increased. This causes makeup to run and the face to shine ever so grossly.

Although you may have adjusted your skin-care products, you realize it is still not enough. So what is out there for us?

Max Factor: The "Finity" collection has the answer for people who hate touching up. It has even solved the runny-mascara problem for those who cry at weddings and will get wet in the rain.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Facefinity (P700)—The long-wearing liquid SPF 15 stays on but feels light. Unlike other long-wearing foundations, it does not become cake-y or mask-like. The coverage is medium but the effect looks sheer. However, while it may be great for people with oily skin in the States, it still is not sufficient for the very oily and acne-prone skin here in the tropics. The product works best on people with balanced and combination skin (normal to dry).

The powder foundation with SPF 15, which I feel is more suited for oily skin, comes in an elegant gold compact. The effect is also sheer but I found myself touching up just once in a six-hour evening. Not bad as I touch up about three to four times with regular foundation for oily skin.

Other options: Shu Uemura Velvet Perfect Powder foundation SPF14 blends right into skin tone without looking cake-y and covers minor imperfections; L'Oreal Mattique liquid gives your face a porcelain finish that stays with minor touch ups only; and Shiseido Mattifying Veil (matches any skin tone as it is colorless and keeps shine away the whole day and night—no touch-ups needed).

Lashfinity—With June upon us, I had to try this one as there really are women who cry at weddings. The product contains permawear, a color bond complex designed to prevent flaking, smudging and running. It stays on till you take it off. The brush defines lashes and deposits just the right amount without clumping.

Other options: Waterproof mascaras like Maybelline Great Lash and Lancome. Lancome has a laboratory that formulates mascaras for several brands as well, and it holds patents for several state-of-the-art mascara brushes.

Lipfinity—The bestseller promises eight-hour wear. But those with very dry lips should go for the long-lasting formula. The product doesn't really rub off and is meant for those who don't want to be bothered about reapplying lipstick and have no dryness problem. It really does stay on the whole day with very slight transfer when eating greasy food. The lip balm that goes with the color alleviates any dry discomfort without "erasing" the lipstick.

No other product comes close to the lipstick in terms of staying power and dryness relief without totally rubbing off when in contact with oil!

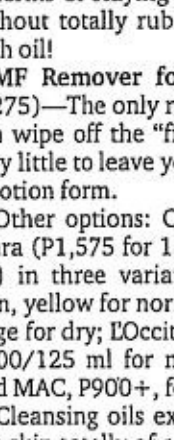
MF Remover for long lasting makeup (P275)—The only reasonably priced cleanser can wipe off the "finity" line totally. It takes very little to leave your face spotless. It comes in lotion form.

Other options: Cleansing oils by Shu Uemura (P1,575 for 150 ml and P3,575 for 450 ml) in three variants—transparent for oily skin, yellow for normal/combination, and orange for dry; L'Occitane olive oil skin cleanser P700/125 ml for normal/combination skin; and MAC, P900+, for normal to dry skin.

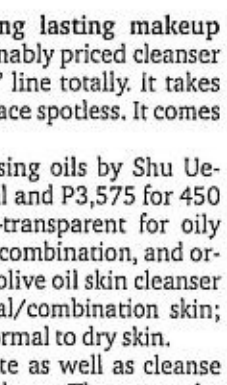
Cleansing oils exfoliate as well as cleanse the skin totally of all makeup. They are to be applied straight on dry skin, distributed evenly then rinsed off with water. A mild lather is produced, which washes off totally with no greasy residue and without causing breakouts.

Max Factor is available in leading department stores. Exclusively Rustan's: Shu Uemura, MAC and L'Occitane (Essences).

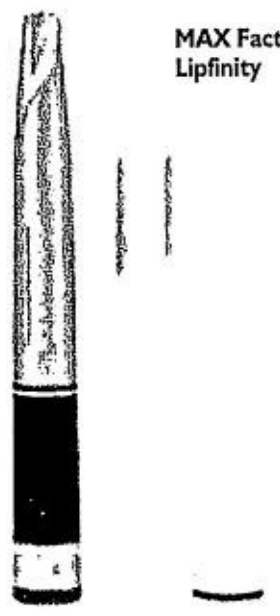
E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



L'OCCITANE olive oil skin cleanser



MAX Factor Facefinity



MAX Factor's Lipfinity

Cooler weather and rising humidity can result in dripping makeup

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus, 33, AVP for Finance, interior design student, mother of two

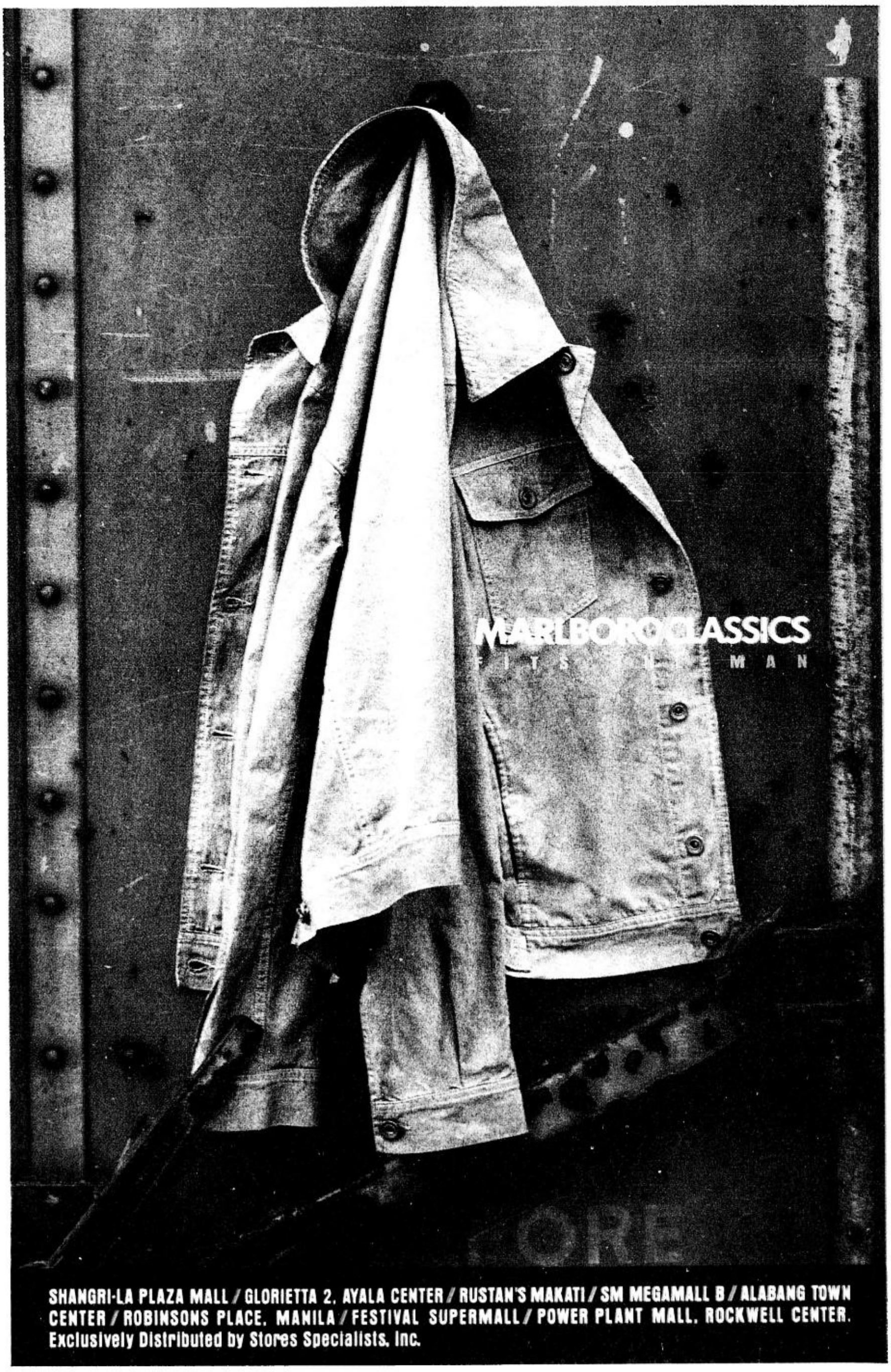
Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

Clinically Proven

IMEDEEN

The Skin Care Tablet



SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL / GLORIETTA 2, AYALA CENTER / RUSTAN'S MAKATI / SM MEGAMALL B / ALABANG TOWN CENTER / ROBINSONS PLACE, MANILA / FESTIVAL SUPERMALL / POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL CENTER.
Exclusively Distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc.

WILD STREAK. Striped wedge-heeled sandals and matching woven handbag

FAIR GAME. White leather mules and geometric shoulder bag

MODEL: ALIYA PARCS
STYLING: MILLET ARZAGA
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PEPS MARQUEZ

JEWEL IN THE SKY. The lovely Aliya Parcs, Manels' image model, shows off a beaded high-heeled sky-blue satin sandals.

ROMAN GODDESS. Low-heeled Roman sandals with white slim ostrich bag

Cobbled for chameleons

Manel bids schoolmarm-y shoes goodbye and says hello to chi-chi designs

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

MANELS, the 39-year-old shoe institution that once had a staid and safe image, is in the midst of a makeover to attract a younger and more eclectic market.

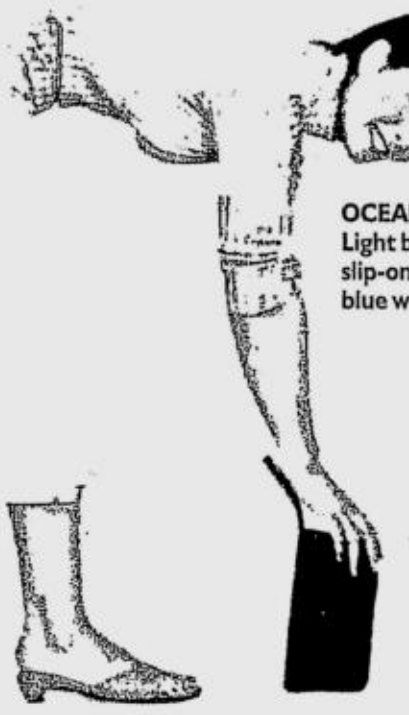
With this new image comes the launch of its new endorser, statuesque singer and commercial model Aliya Parcs.

The chameleon-like looks of the 23-year-old Filipino-Dutch can play up the varied looks Manels is hoping to project: playful and young, casual and relaxed, sexy and fun, chic and sophisticated.

Manels' classic styles are now side by side with wedge-, kitten-, mile-high-heeled sandals, delicate thongs, comfy mules, vampy strappies, appliquéd and beaded evening shoes or slip-ons with fine Roman tie details. With its leather collections now also come footwear made of woven and dainty satin fabrics. A Manels shopper never has to go elsewhere for a bag to match her shoes: The store has this covered.

It may be hip to wear pastel and rainbow-colored shoes, but Manels also takes into account the comfort and fit of every pair that hits its 42 stores. After all, these are the qualities that have made the Manels name.

CODE RED. Wedge-heeled slip-ons with floral applique and tiny red tote



OCEAN BREEZE. Light blue suede slip-ons and dark blue wristlet purse

COCOA CREAM PUFF. Two-tone shoulder bag and beaded yellow thongs

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN. Ecru evening bag with matching wedge-heeled sandals

Red-carpet fashion is the star at CFDA awards

NEW YORK—The Council of Fashion Designers of America again named Narciso Rodriguez, a red-carpet favorite of Sarah Jessica Parker and Salma Hayek, as the country's best womenswear designer.

Rodriguez, known for sleek, formfitting gowns, won for the second year in a row. Parker and Calvin Klein, Rodriguez's mentor, handed out the award at Monday night's annual CFDA gala.

Rodriguez, who previously worked for Klein, said that when he left the famous design house 10 years ago to launch his own label, a supportive Klein told him that fashion was a difficult business in which true success was rare.

"A few nights ago, he (Klein) said that I was doing it, and I was doing it well," said a teary Rodriguez.

Parker, the host for fashion's equivalent of the Academy Awards, ironically didn't include a Rodriguez gown in her wardrobe for the evening. Instead, she wore a dress designed by each of the gala's three chairpeople: a strapless pink and white polka-dot dress by Carolina Herrera, a nude-colored dress with a white sequin hem by Vera Wang and a black dress with spaghetti straps and a handkerchief hem by Klein.

She arrived on the red carpet at the New York Public Library in a rose-colored Oscar de la Renta with a jeweled pin at the hip.

When Adrien Brody presented Michael Kors with the menswear design award, the Oscar winner quipped, "Security was tight. They checked my label at the door."

Renee Zellweger said she wore elegant long gloves to complement her ivory-colored gown by Herrera because her date, Vogue editor at large Andre Leon Talley, who received a fashion journalism award, is a fan of a lady in white gloves.

Picking a gown for a fashion event is no easier or harder than choosing other red-carpet outfits, Zellweger said. "I don't really know my look—but this dress fit and it's so pretty."

Talley, though, knew how to describe Zellweger. "You are my postmodern Audrey Hepburn," he said.

The CFDA awards illustrated how the worlds of New York fashion and Hollywood celebrity have come together as one. Claire Danes arrived on the arm of Zac Posen and Rachel Weisz came with Rodriguez. Marisa Tomei escorted the two young designers of Proenza Schouler, Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez, who received the Swarovski Perry Ellis award as the top newcomers in ready-to-wear.

VOGUE editor Andre Leon Talley and actress Renee Zellweger REUTERS

DESIGNER Narciso Rodriguez poses with Sarah Jessica Parker after winning the Best Womenswear Designer award at the CFDA Awards in New York. REUTERS

"It's amazing to be part of an industry that rewards its young," said Hernandez, who only graduated from Parsons School of Design last May.

Lauren Bacall picked up Nicole Kidman's fashion icon award because Kidman was unexpectedly called to Los Angeles to finish work on the film "The Human Stain."

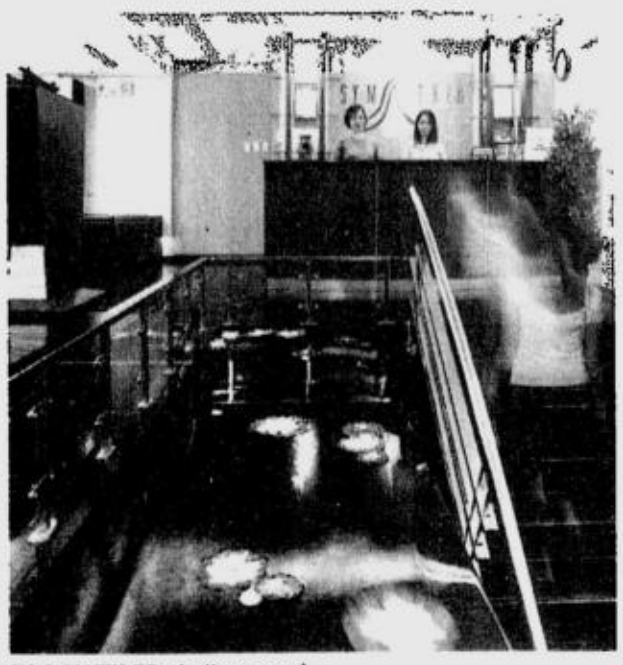
Bacall, a previous "icon" winner, said she has become close with Kidman because they've just completed two movies together. Bacall said she admired Kidman's work ethic, fashion sense and ability to look "pretty great" at 6 a.m. without any makeup on. "I'm jealous," Bacall joked.

Other winners selected by over 450 fashion designers, press, retailers and stylists included Marc Jacobs, for his Marc line of accessories, and shoe designer Brian Atwood. Oleg Cassini, who is most famous for dressing Jacqueline Kennedy during her White House years, received a special tribute, and Vogue editor in chief Anna Wintour was honored for her lifetime contribution to fashion and fashion-industry charities.

While Wintour is known for her toughness and dark sunglasses, she appeared touched by the award and even a little nervous in her delicate, peach-colored outfit by de la Renta.

After recalling missteps she took at Harper's Bazaar—she was chastised for hiring models in dreadlocks a couture photo shoot—and at House and Garden—renaming it "HG"—before landing at Vogue, Wintour said, "I have only one real lifetime achievement, my children."

AP



BLACK-TILED shallow pond

Zen-inspired interiors

Hair salon goes for symmetry

"BEAUTY is about creating symmetry, an overall balance. Symmetry is the reasonable order of things," says Colette Tuviera, one of three chief stylists of the Symmetria salon on Connecticut Street in Greenhills.

She knows whereof she speaks. She has spent years studying hair art at the Vidal Sassoon Academy in Los Angeles and at Vidal Sassoon boutique. As a professional, she has done the hair of Rosanna Roces, Regine Velasquez, Lorna Tolentino and Hilda Koronel.

The other Symmetria chief stylists are Bong Bella (also manager) and Bo Vicencio (also makeup specialist).

Tuviera opened Symmetria in October. The salon has a spa feel and look to it: shallow pond, a continuous water feature that runs from the initial steps up to the back, glass walls, garden, black, white and dark wood.

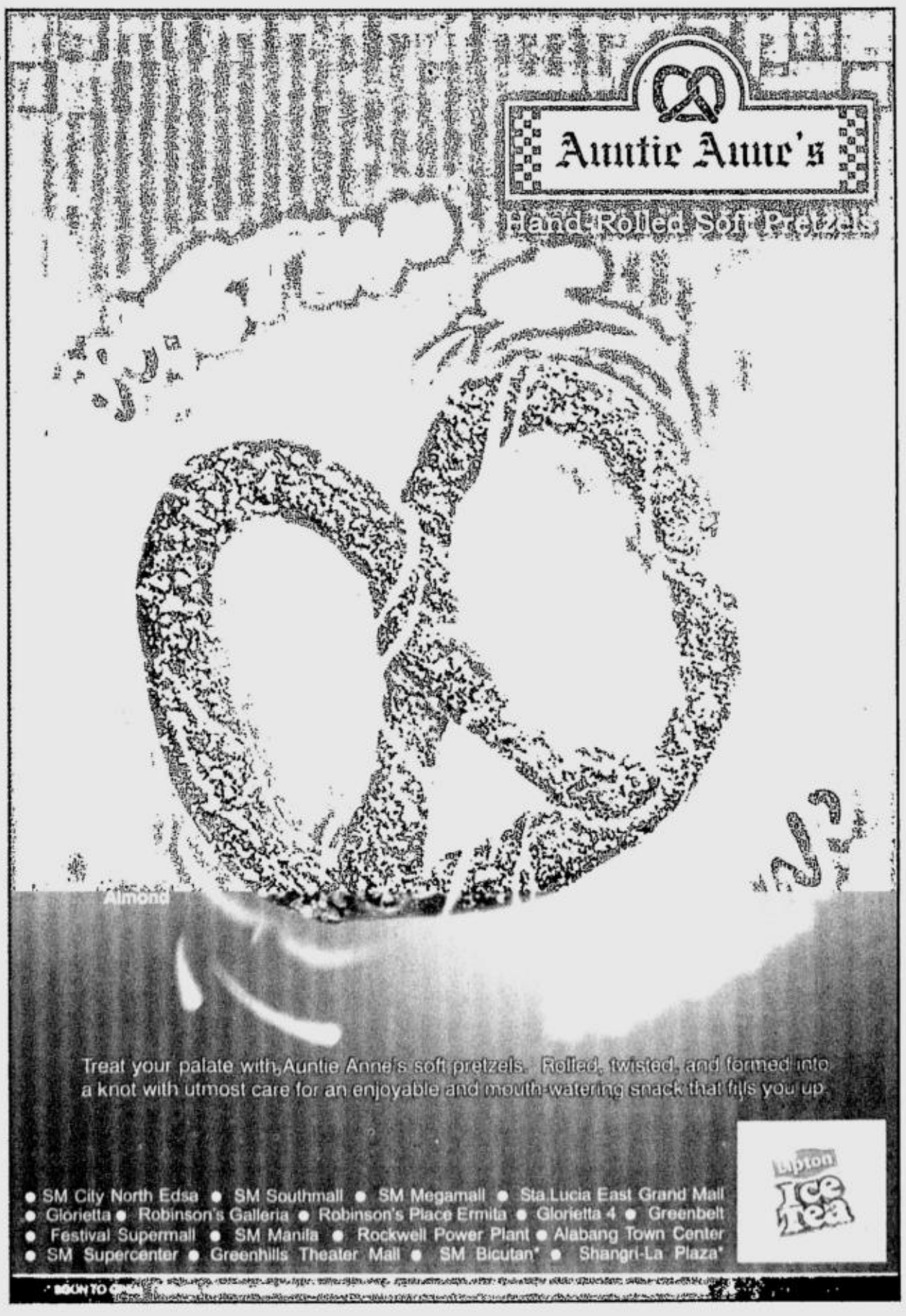
. There is a VIP room where clients can be accommodated. A relaxing dimly lit waiting room is separated from the working floor. Rectangular cloth curtains can be pulled down between chairs for more privacy.

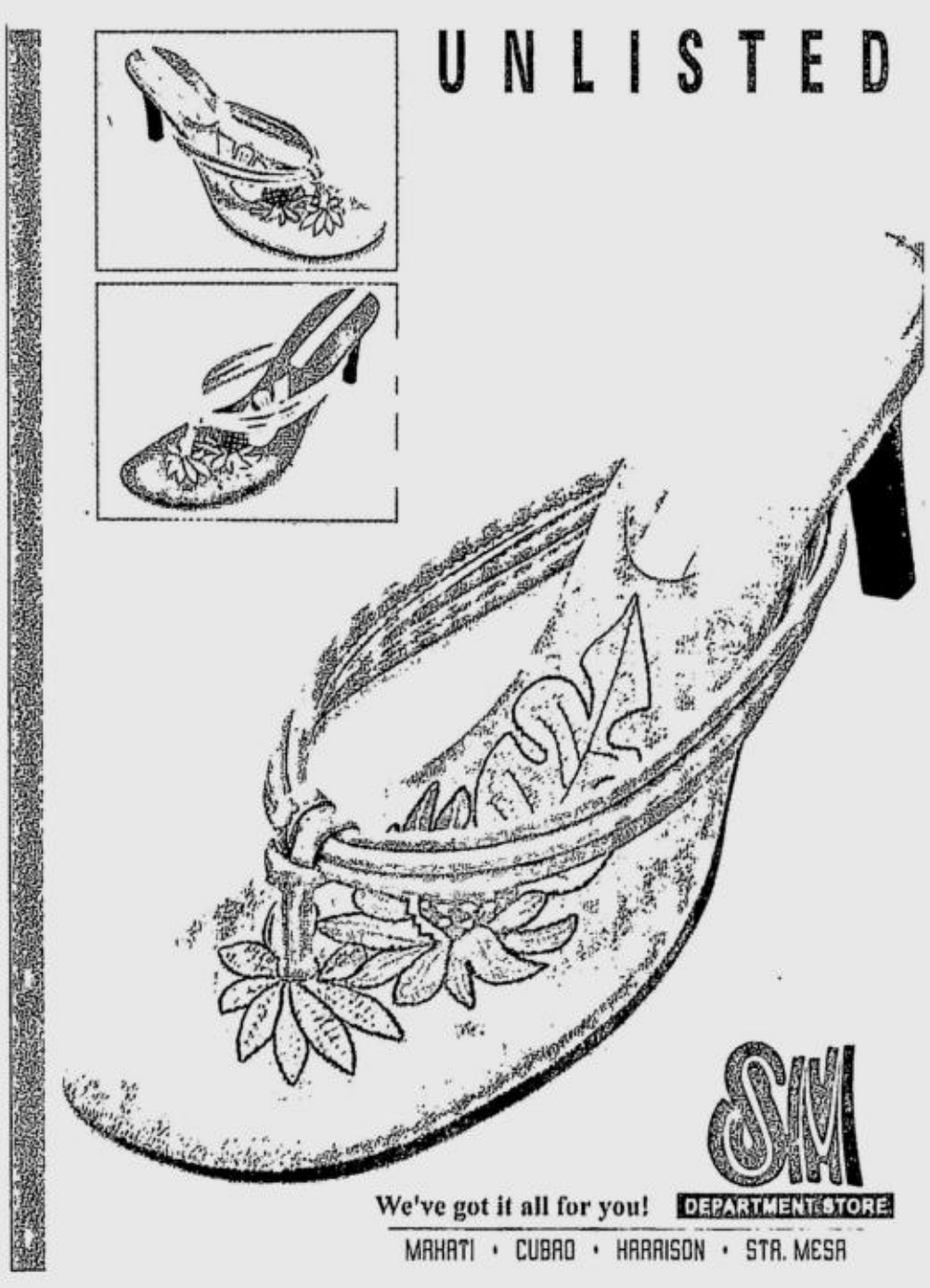
The Zen idea of personal space is complemented by top-of-the-line styling and care products, and state-of-the-art equipment imported from Japan and Italy, such as machines that process hair color quicker and spa gadgets that run on jacuzzi jets.

Tuviera, Bella and Vicencio continuously update their knowledge and skills. Tuviera just attended a beauty convention in Italy, while Bella, the chief stylist of Martin Nievera, just attended a Toni & Guy seminar in London.

BO Vicencia, Celeste Tuviera and Bong Bella

THE S-Team





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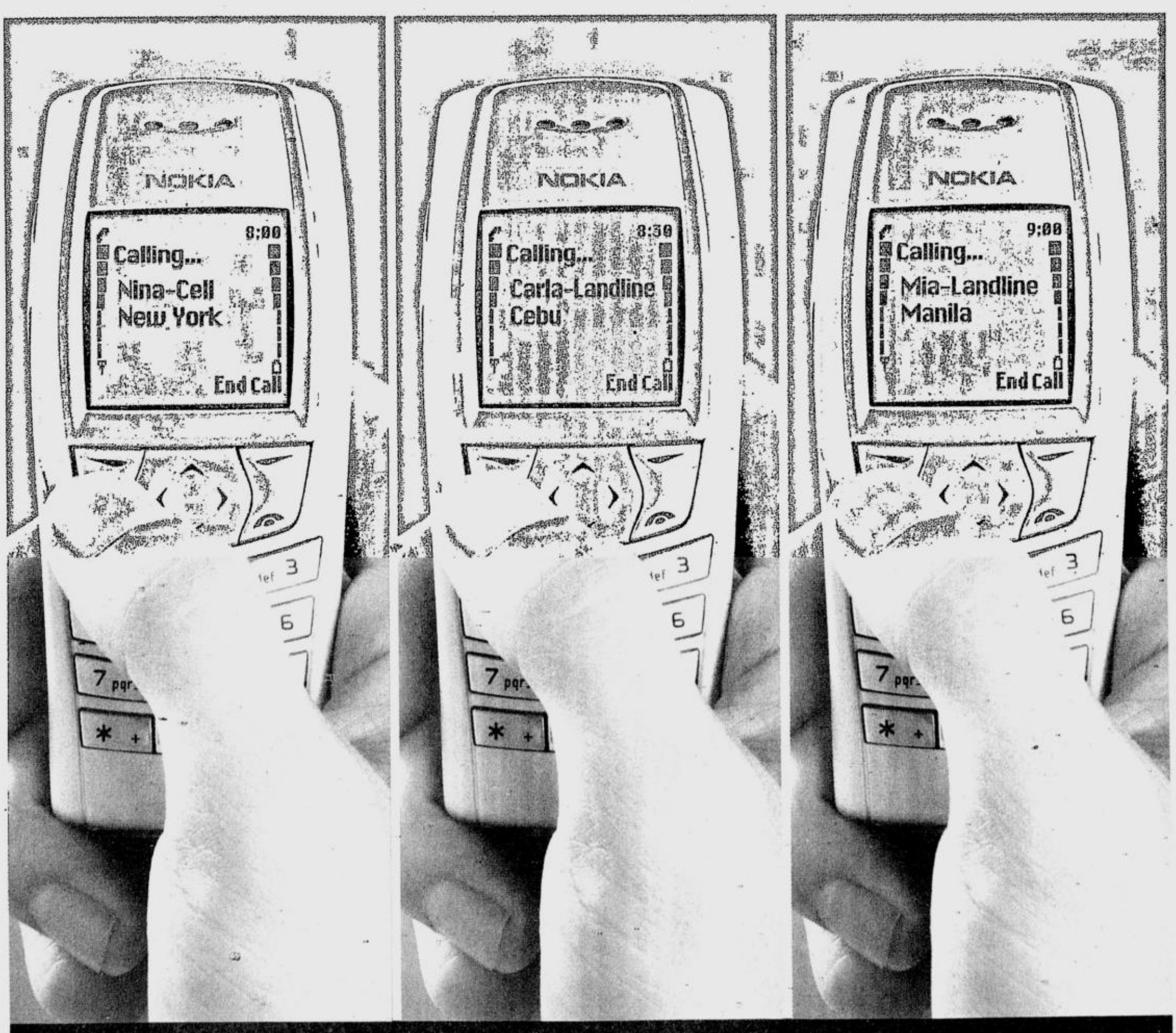

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House approves dual citizenship bill despite flap

Story Below, Col. 2

Last Sipadan hostage free after three years

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—After more than three years in captivity, the last Abu Sayyaf hostage is finally free.

Roland Ullah, who was among the 21 people the bandit group abducted from the Malaysian diving resort of Sipadan on April 23, 2000, escaped last Wednesday,

LAST/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, June 7, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 179 P15

A BLOOMING President Macapagal in the land of the cherry blossoms calls on Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Friday. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Gov't to resume MILF peace talks

RP, Malaysia agree without preconditions

By Carlito Pablo
and PDI Mindanao Bureau

TOKYO (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad have agreed to resume peace talks between the government and the MILF—without any preconditions.

The two leaders reached the agreement when they met here Thursday morning, Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser for special concerns, told reporters.

At cocktails Thursday evening, the President was tightlipped about her meeting with Mahathir.

She said she preferred that announcements regarding the MILF be made in Manila. The President was to return last night after a two-nation swing to South Korea and Japan.

Ms Macapagal will spend one week in Mindanao from June 10 to 17.

"He (Mahathir) will continue to help again in the peace process," Ms Macapagal said.

Malaysia has brokered on-again, off-again peace talks between the govern-

GOV'T/ A19

ALL'S well that ends well, President Macapagal beams at her power team toward the conclusion of her successful Tokyo visit. She was due to arrive last night. From left, Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Energy Secretary Vince Perez. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Gloria now smiles, cool when asked about 2004

By Carlito Pablo

TOKYO (via PLDT)—It used to be that reporters needed only to ask about 2004 and President Macapagal-Arroyo would almost surely hit the roof.

But now, she smiles. Even her parrying of delicately worded questions on whether there will be a "continuity" of her administration has become mild.

Before, she was known to rebuke reporters for being "fixated" on 2004, at times even threatening to abort media conferences if the topic was brought up.

The marked change in the President's demeanor was noted Thursday evening when she hosted cocktails for reporters who covered her two-nation swing of South Korea and Japan.

It was on that day that the INQUIRER headlined the report datelined Seoul and quoting an unnamed source as saying

GLORIA/ A18

Magsaysay, Flavier not running if...

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, both nursing plans to seek the presidency in 2004, will back out of the race should President Macapagal-Arroyo decide to run.

Magsaysay earlier declared his intention to run for president as long as he gets the endorsement of the People Power Coalition (PPC). But yesterday he said he would just seek reelection if the "mounting pressure" continued on the President to change her mind.

He also said the PPC had already come up with a list of senatorial candidates, which included the senators running for reelection, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Flavier, a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD, told the INQUIRER that he was no

MAGSAYSAY/ A18

COMPAÑEROS. Senate President Franklin Drilon visits Sen. Rene Cayetano in his home on Friday. Cayetano, who arrived on Thursday from the US where he went under the knife for a liver transplant, was to have taken over from Drilon last December under a power-sharing agreement in 2001.

House approves bill on dual citizenship amid controversy

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Michael Lim Ubac

CONTROVERSY marked the House approval of a bill that allows Filipino expatriates to retain Filipino citizenship, with opposition lawmakers accusing the Senate leadership of "holding the House hostage."

Voting 128-33 with three abstentions, the House approved the dual citizenship bill on final reading past midnight of Thursday, or shortly before Congress adjourned.

According to procedure, House Bill No. 2730 will be reconciled with the Senate's version, Bill 2130, principally authored by Senate President Franklin Drilon, when Congress resumes sessions late in July. The Senate approved the bill as early as October last year.

But once the reconciled bills are passed into law, the minority bloc will question its constitutionality before the Supreme Court, Minority

HOUSE/ A19

US withdraws forces from 2 Koreas' Demilitarized Zone

IN ONE of the biggest realignments of forces since the Korean War, Washington and Seoul agreed Thursday to withdraw most of the 37,000 US troops from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) off the border of North Korea to bases further south in South Korea.

The DMZ, the Cold War's last frontier, is a stretch of no-man's land dividing the two Koreas.

The two states remain technically at war because the armed truce which ended the 1950-53 Korean conflict never led to a peace treaty.

"We recognize we have a new security environment and as such we have a new national security strategy" that "requires a solid review worldwide of where our forces are deployed and stationed," US Pacific Command chief Adm. Thomas Fargo said.

"All of these discussions that are ongoing will be

US/ A17

Males demanding, even in the womb

LONDON—Even while still in the womb, boys are already more demanding than girls.

Swedish and American researchers have found out that male fetuses demand a higher energy intake than female ones, prompting their pregnant mothers to eat about 10 percent (or 200) more calories per day than women carrying girls.

Women carrying male embryos also consume 8 percent more protein and have a higher intake of carbohydrates and animal and vegetable fats, according to research published in The British Medical Journal.

"These data suggest that in utero, boys are already

MALES/ A17

'Nani can have any job he wants'

By Carlito Pablo

TOKYO (via PLDT)—Press Secretary-on-leave Hernani "Nani" Braganza must be the envy of his peers in the Cabinet.

After offering to resign due to health reasons and personal differences with other presidential aides, Braganza, who was known in Congress as one of the "Spice Boys," now enjoys the luxury of choosing which post he wants to assume.

In fact, President Macapagal-Arroyo said, he could even reclaim his post as press secretary.

Ms Macapagal said she and Braganza "talked about options" he might want to take regarding his continued service in the administration.

"I have to see where he's most comfortable," the President said during a talk on Thursday night with Philippine-based reporters covering her working visit to Japan.

But one thing is sure, Ms Macapagal said, "he's coming back."

NANI/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/07/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

GMA returns with pledges of aid, boats and planes

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo returned home last night, bringing home pledges of military assistance from Japan and Thailand for the government's counterinsurgency, antiterrorism and anti-crime campaigns.

Before leaving for Manila, Ms Macapagal announced in Tokyo that the Japanese government was donating reconnaissance boats for the Philippine Coast Guard to use in its patrols.

To get around Japan's laws which prohibit the government from donating defense equipment, Ms Macapagal suggested to the Japanese foreign ministry that it strip the boats of weapons.

"We can install the weapons once the boats are delivered," she said. "Their foreign minister said that it was a good idea and they'll look into it."

The President also announced that Thailand was donating eight OV-10, or Bronco bomber planes, four of which will be delivered to the country when Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra visits Manila sometime in August or September.

She said Thailand has no need for the planes because it does not have an insurgency problem.

Thaksin will deliver a lecture in Manila on what Ms Macapagal called "Thaksinomics," in honor of the Thai leader.

The President and Thaksin held talks on Thursday afternoon after they and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad addressed a media forum in Tokyo on Asia's future.

Ms Macapagal held a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi where they agreed to expedite the establishment of a Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, which will further strengthen the economic ties of the two nations and provide the framework for a more comprehensive trading relationship, including person-to-person exchanges.

The two leaders also agreed that new areas for promoting economic growth needed to be explored fully, especially in human resources development. Ms Macapagal called for Japan's acceptance of Filipino nurses and information technology workers.

During the meeting, Ms Macapagal also said she would propose a resolution during an Asean ministerial meeting in Cambodia this month that would urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

US ADMIRAL Thomas Fargo, left, addresses the press after his meeting with Philippine officials led by Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, right, at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. Fargo warned that the Jemaah Islamiah was still a threat to the Asian region. AFP

American official warns JI capable of more attacks

By Martin P. Marfil

A UNITED STATES military official yesterday said that despite the recent successes against the Jemaah Islamiah, the terrorist group is still capable of launching further attacks.

This was the assessment of Admiral Thomas Fargo, chief of the US Pacific Command, who said the threat could be countered by more intelligence-sharing among Southeast Asian nations.

"I think we have arrested and detained some 140 members of the Jemaah Islamiah, including some of their key leaders," Fargo said at a press conference after the Mutual Defense Board meeting at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Despite the arrests, however, Fargo said authorities have not been able to solve the terrorism problem completely.

But because of the arrests, Fargo said, they are getting a clearer picture of the organization and its capability to conduct terrorist acts.

"They do have the ability to conduct further attacks but I think that with the very close cooperation that I'm seeing now in the countries in this region . . . sharing intelligence is really making a difference and we can ultimately achieve the kind of success that is most important to our security throughout Southeast Asia," Fargo said.

Fargo said he did not have specific information to link the Jemaah Islamiah to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"What we know is that they are not the typical, very tight command and control relationship that you see in the military. They are probably loose confederations but we need more and better knowledge about these linkages," he said.

Fargo met yesterday with AFP chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya during the MDB's 45th anniversary.

One of the topics discussed was how to improve the inter-operability between the military forces of both the Philippines and the US in countering terrorism.

Washington says Jemaah Islamiah, which seeks a strict Islamic state across parts of Southeast Asia, has links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network that is blamed for the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Certainly, the arrests that have been made in places like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia and other countries for that matter, including the Philippines, have been very important in diminishing the capability of Jemaah Islamiah," Fargo said.

Indonesian police have linked the group to bombings on the resort island of Bali in October that killed nearly 200 people, mostly foreign tourists.

Fargo is on a three-day visit to the Philippines to discuss security issues with local officials.

US and Philippine troops are due to hold a second round of joint exercises this year to help local units fight the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnap-for-ransom gang linked by Washington to al-Qaida. *With a Reuters report*

DFA: Pinoys asked to deliver bombs

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has warned all Philippine diplomatic missions abroad to be alert for possible terrorist attacks following reports that at least two Filipinos working abroad had been approached and offered money to bring bombs into United States and Philippine embassies in Abu Dhabi.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Administration Franklin Ebdalin said Manila has directed its 80 embassies and consulates abroad to immediately report any incidents or threats related to terrorism or criminality in their areas of jurisdiction.

Ebdalin told reporters that the country's diplomatic posts have taken steps to upgrade their security measures, such as the improvement of perimeter fences and the hiring of additional security guards.

Philippine diplomatic missions unable to enhance their security situations due to budgetary constraints were ordered to ask for increased security assistance from their host countries, he said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople earlier said Philippine intelligence services were looking into the alleged plot in Abu Dhabi.

Additional diplomatic guards have been detailed at the embassy and at the labor centers in Abu Dhabi and Dubai by the government of the United Arab Emirates upon the request of the Philippines, he said.

Ople reiterated that the Philippines had already tightened security at its embassies across the Middle East after an attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia left 34 people dead, including three Filipinos.

The DFA said that in one case, "Arab-looking men" tried to recruit an overseas Filipino worker on May 26 into taking part in a plot to attack the Philippine Embassy with bombs. He was asked to drive a car loaded with explosives to the premises of the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

After he refused, they threatened him and told him they knew where his wife worked, one report said. *With a report from AFP*

Cops eyeing Erap supporters

THE POLICE said Friday they are monitoring three largely depressed Manila districts known as strongholds of supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, after he called on the public to help him "reclaim" his presidency.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, head of police forces in the capital, said police were watching the slum areas of Tondo and the suburbs of Caloocan and San Juan, all known to be areas where support for Estrada remains strong.

Velasco cited intelligence reports that the Estrada supporters may stage some large-scale action.

Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, is mayor of San Juan, while an Estrada ally, actor Rey Malonso, is mayor of Caloocan City.

The police action this week came after Estrada issued a letter with the presidential symbol, calling on the electorate to reclaim the presidency that he said was "stolen" from him with the collusion of the judiciary.

"It is now up to you, the Filipino people, to be the judge and give me justice. True justice is all in your hands because power resides in you," Estrada said.

Ejercito said he could not control the public if they staged a similar protest to the May 1, 2001 riots.

"It depends on the people. If you could recall (the May protest), no one led it. It was the masses who started it all," Ejercito said. Thousands of Estrada supporters at the time stormed Malacañang in an effort to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, who succeeded Estrada. *AFP*

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Suu Kyi safe, envoy assures Ople

By Norman Bordadora

BURMA'S ambassador has assured Manila that National League for Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is safe following reports she had been wounded in clashes between government and opposition forces in the past week and was subsequently detained.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday summoned Burmese Ambassador U Tin Htun to the Department of Foreign Affairs to inquire about the condition of Suu Kyi, Nobel peace laureate and Burma's top opposition figure, and the situation in the country. (*See related story on Page A12.*)

"We have the assurances of the government of Myanmar that Madame Suu Kyi is safe. We have no reason to doubt what they have said. We are confident that Myanmar will continue to ensure the safety of Madame Suu Kyi and will continue to keep those interested updated and informed," Ople said after his meeting with the envoy.

In summoning the envoy, Ople earlier said in a statement: "It's a very murky situation there. We have invited the Myanmar ambassador to the (Department of Foreign Affairs) ... so that we can clarify the situation, including the allegation that (Aung Sang) Suu Kyi has been detained and that they don't disclose where she is."

Suu Kyi was recently arrested by Burma's military junta during a political tour with members of her NLD party and is being held at a military camp outside the capital city of Rangoon, according to reports.

Her arrest came after clashes between her supporters and a military-backed group. The military reported four deaths, but sources have said several dozen people may have died in what the United States says was an apparent "premeditated ambush."

Ople also told Burma's ambassador that the Philippines hoped that United Nations special envoy Razali Ismail would be allowed to meet with Suu Kyi. *With a report from AFP*

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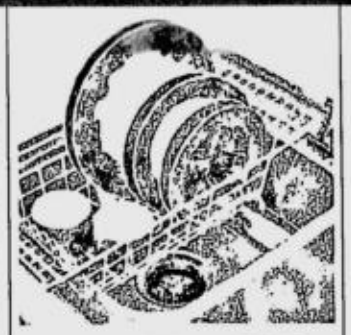
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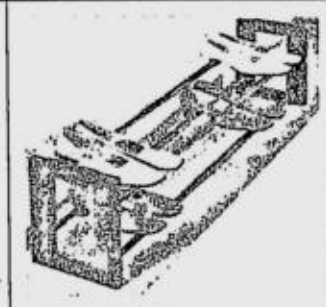
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Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
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Too much, say parents of drugs, SARS tests on schoolchildren

By Christian V. Esguerra

DRUG tests and anti-SARS seminars? You've got to be kidding.

Irate parents yesterday took a swipe at the government's plan to make students undergo drug testing and at the same time attend a rigorous, week-long SARS-prevention seminar.

"This is overkill," said Leah Cruz, 52, a mother of two high school students. "They're in school primarily to learn, not to go through all this."

While supporting the drug test in principle, Celestial Tejuco, 46, of Dimasalang, Manila expressed her reservations.

The tests should not coincide with the one-week SARS seminar beginning June 9, said Tejuco who has two children in college. "The kids will be battered by all these measures. They'll lose their focus and momentum."

Parents got the backing of a nationwide association of public school teachers which said it would not allow students to be abused by the anti-drug measure.

They will block all tests unless students, parents and school officials were properly consulted on the measure's implementing guidelines, said Tarcela Farolan, president of the 12,000-strong Teachers Organization of the Philippine Public Sector.

Tejuco said students might be traumatized if policemen were to conduct the drug tests.

"If blood samples would be taken, authorities should also make sure that they don't use a common needle," she said. "Who knows? Our kids might be afflicted with AIDS."

If the Dangerous Drugs Board was also bent on testing students for substance abuse, Tejuco said the measure should be properly funded by the government and should spare no one.

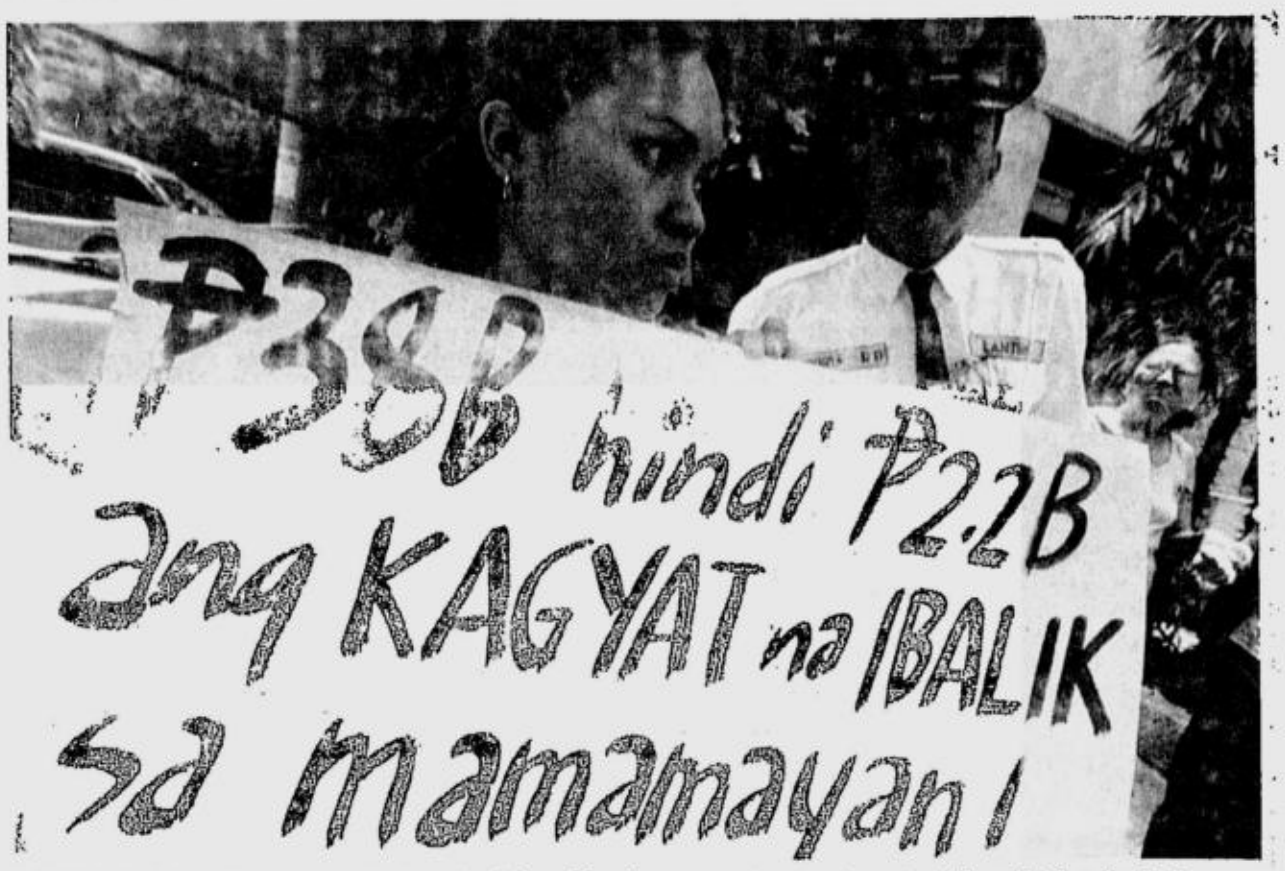
A ranking Department of Justice official said yesterday the controversial government campaign to conduct random drug tests could continue unless the Supreme Court rules that the new anti-drugs law is unconstitutional.

DOJ Undersecretray Merceditas Gutierrez said the Comprenhensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 is "legal and valid" unless the SC strikes it down.

The political party Social Justice Society has asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the provision of the law that requires mandatory drug testing.

SJS President Samsom Alcantara said the provision violates the people's constitutional rights and likened it to unreasonable searches and seizures.

The questioned provision, Section 36, empowers the government, through the health department and its accredited drug testing laboratories, to conduct random drug testing on high school and college students, and officers and employees of public and private offices. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*



MEMBERS of the militant group Anakpawis picket a Meralco payment center to protest the utility's refund scheme. The group wants the entire amount owed consumers refunded at one time, and not in the trickle Meralco has proposed. VAL HANDUMON

Confusion, snail's pace mar first day of Meralco refund

By Ronnel Domingo

YESTERDAY was the first day of implementation of the Manila Electric Co.'s refund scheme for its customers, but not even one percent of the 1.4 million beneficiaries went to claim the money that had been overcharged them.

Meralco's Refund Management Task Force chief Leonardo Mabale said only about 8,700 customers had gone to Meralco's 40 refund centers as of press time yesterday.

And only about 3,000 were able to either get their cash refund or have it credited to their monthly payments.

Of those who completed the refund process, 65 percent opted to get the cash.

Those who failed to process their claims either did not bring the required documents with them or were there just to ask questions, Mabale said.

The 1.4 million beneficiaries under Phase I of the refund were grouped into 26 batches, each of which will have three days to claim their money.

Meralco officials have said it would cost the utility between P1.6 billion and P2.2 billion to implement the first phase of the refund, which covers customers who consume up to 100 kilowatt-hour a month. This is in partial compliance with the Supreme Court's order for Meralco to refund more than P30 billion it had overcharged customers since 1994.

Last May, Meralco officials said customers who used 50 kWh and less will get an average refund of P354. Those who used between 51 kWh and 60 kWh will get an average of P866; 61-70 kWh will get P1,120; 71-80 kWh will get P1,176; 81-90 kWh will get P1,331, 91-100 kWh will get P1,487.

Slow, confusing process

Meanwhile, groups that monitored the centers said the process was slow and that claimants were confused and ill-informed.

Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson for the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said that for instance, only one customer was able to claim his refund in Meralco's Kamuning branch two-and-a-half hours after it opened at 7 a.m.

"At the España branch, only nine people out of 235 who came were able to get their money by noon," he said.

Reyes added that some claimants did know they were supposed to bring documents like identification cards and authorization letters.

Last May 26, Meralco said claimants should bring their electric bill and any of the following: driver's license, passport, Professional Regulatory Commission license, SSS or GSIS IDs or taxpayers identification number (TIN) card.

For those who pay bills under another person's name, as in the case of a tenant who pays for bills under his landlord's name, the tenant should ask the landlord for authority to claim the refund.

Higher June bills

In a related development, Bayan's Reyes said many consumers complained that their monthly billing in June went up because they were based on the unbundling of rates under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

The new electric bill contains contains 17 items including generation, transmission, distribution, meter and universal charges. *With reports from Agnes Donato, Philip Tubeza, Margaux Ortiz*

Cagayan de Oro woman has urinary infection, not SARS

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday said the suspected SARS case in Cagayan de Oro city turned out to be negative of the deadly disease.

"She has urinary tract infection, not SARS," Dr. Ma. Consorcia Quizon, a head of the National Epidemiology Center, said of the SARS suspect who worked as a health worker in Taiwan.

The case of the 27-year-old OFW, who arrived in the country on May 30 and developed a fever on June 1, had resulted in a clash of wills between national government officials and Cagayan de Oro officials.

City officials had barred the entry of the sick OFW into the government-owned Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC), which had been designated as a SARS isolation facility for Region X.

The officials said they were implementing a local ordinance banning from the city people believed to be sick with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit had to call Interior Secretary Joey Lina and the Philippine National Police to escort the OFW to the hospital.

Lina has ordered the filing of administrative charges against the Cagayan de Oro City government for passing a "discriminatory" ordinance against suspected SARS patients.

"The patient later turned out to be negative of SARS, but the damage was already done," Lina said.

Dayrit said the charges would be a "test case," even as he criticized local officials for being "nearsighted" in preventing the entry of SARS patients into their area.

But Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano berated regional health officials for not following the ordinance.

Emano was strongly opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo's executive order designating the NMMC a SARS isolation facility.

In an interview with a local radio station, Emano, who was in South Korea with Ms Macapagal, said the city's legal office would be preparing charges against health and other officials. *Reports from Armand Nocum, Christian Esguerra, Grace Albasin and Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Solons take off, before session ends

By Cynthia Balana

HAVE time, will travel.

Even before the second regular session of the 12th Congress could be adjourned, at least seven senators, some of them seeking the presidency, had left the country for destinations abroad. Four more are set to leave soon.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda left the country last week to attend the Philippine Independence Day celebration in Los Angeles and New York. She will go on vacation afterwards.

Sen. Noli de Castro was included in President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visits to South Korea and Japan, while Sen. Rodolfo Biazon is attending a celebration organized by the Philippine community in Los Angeles, after a trip to Germany.

Sen. Edgardo Angara is in Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the graduation of one of his children from Harvard University.

Also proceeding to Boston is Sen. Francis Pangilinan, to attend the reunion of graduates of the Kennedy School of Government, also at Harvard. He will take along his wife, movie actress Sharon Cuneta, for a vacation.

Minority Leader Vicente Sotto also left for the United States for a vacation.

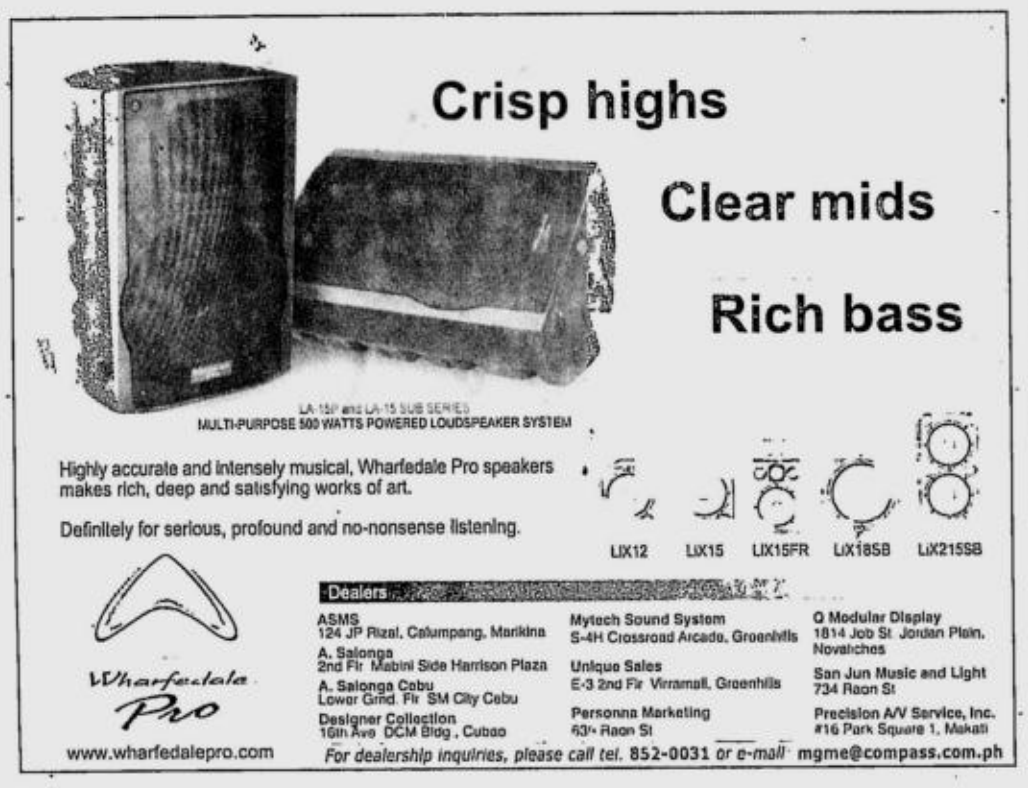
Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who celebrated his birthday last Sunday, left three days later for Vancouver, Canada.

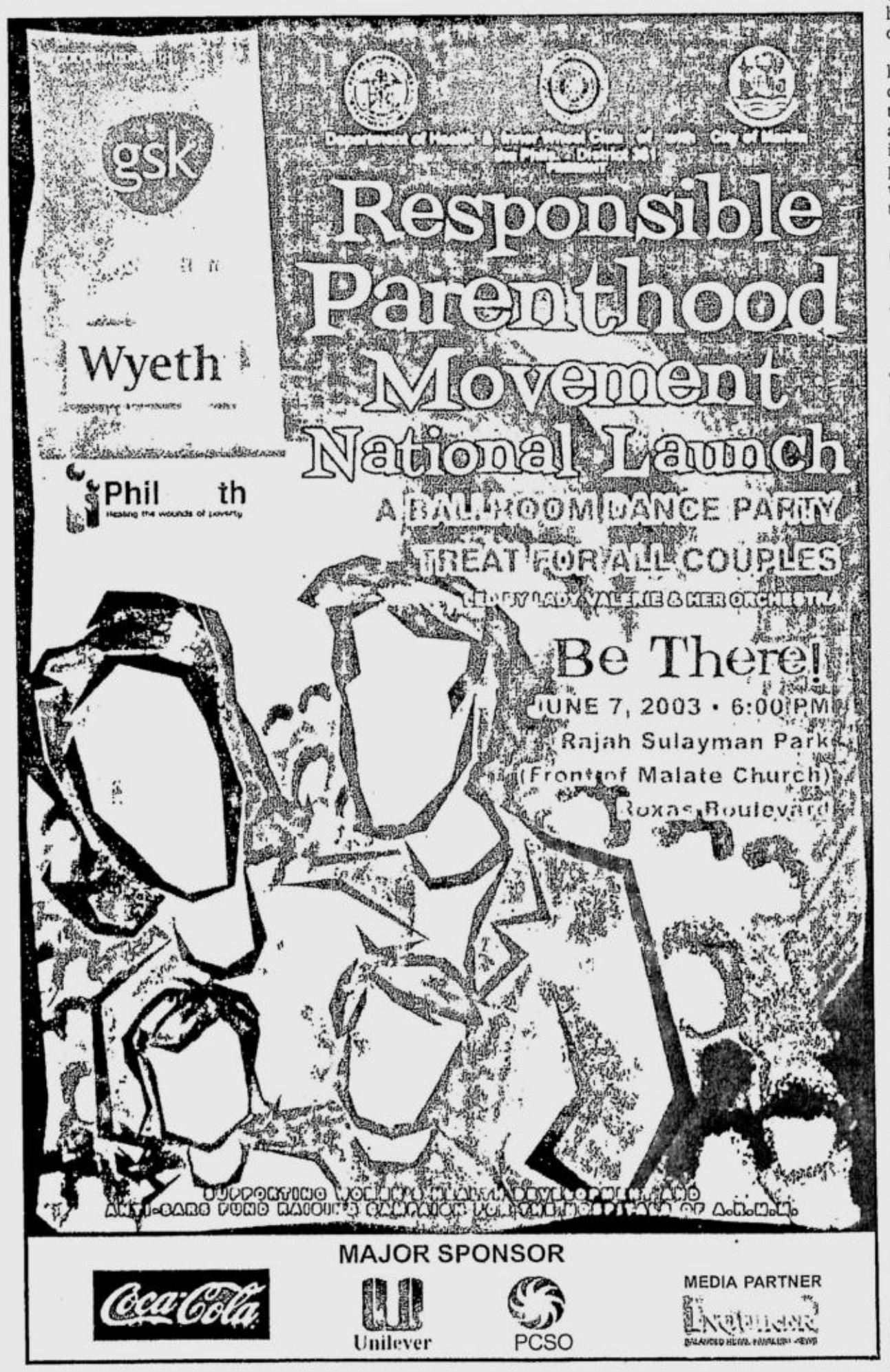
For his part, Senate President Franklin Drilon will leave for San Francisco to meet with members of the biggest Philippine community in the United States.

Sen. Manny Villar will speak before a Filipino community in Romania, before joining his family for their traditional vacation in Europe.

Sen. Ralph Recto and his wife, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, were also reportedly leaving for a holiday abroad, while Sen. John Osmeña is said to be leaving for the Middle East, for still unknown reasons.

The third regular session begins in late July.





Tan may have escaped to Singapore

By Armand N. Nocum

CONTROVERSIAL businessman Dante Tan may have escaped to Singapore or another country with whom the Philippines does not have an extradition treaty.

In a press briefing yesterday, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said Tan could have left Australia in a chartered plane or a yacht to escape detection.

Tan fled Australia after a scandal broke out over his alleged donation of A$10,000 (roughly P350,000) to the Liberal Party of Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock. Shortly after making the donation, Tan allegedly received an investor's visa and later Australian citizenship.

"We are now working with Singapore immigration officials," Domingo said, adding that the Bureau of Immigration had received a tip about Tan's flight to Singapore.

She said they were not ruling out the possibility he may be intending to go to Hong Kong. The Philippines has no extradition treaty with either Singapore or Hong Kong.

"He could be looking for a country with whom we do not have an extradition treaty. His problem is that he does not have any travel documents," Domingo said.

Australia, meanwhile, has issued a global alert for Tan.

Ruddock said on Friday Canberra was considering whether to strip Tan of his Australian citizenship after it was discovered he was wanted in the Philippines for questioning over alleged stock price manipulations in 1999.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said Manila submitted a request late on Thursday asking Australian authorities to arrest Tan.

"Wherever he is, we will try our best to get him back," Gutierrez told reporters. "We still don't know what passport he is using right now. We can have his Philippine passport cancelled."

Ruddock has had to fend off questions over Tan's success in first getting an Australian business visa in 1998 and then residency. He has acknowledged that Tan donated A$10,000 to his party.

Ruddock said Interpol has been alerted to look out for Tan and the Australian federal police was in contact with its counterpart in the Philippines.

Ruddock has denied any impropriety in the granting of the visas to Tan and in his political donations.

Tan was charged before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court with fraud on Dec. 18, 2000 in connection with the Best World Resources stock manipulation scam. The court later issued three arrest warrants against him. *With Philip C. Tubeza; Reuters*

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Filipino is Rotary Int'l director

AGRICULTURE Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante was elected director of Rotary International on June 3 during the Rotary International Convention held in Brisbane, Australia.

Rotary International is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Bolante is only the seventh Filipino to be elected director of Rotary International, after Carlos P. Romulo, Gil J. Puyat, Francisco C. Delgado, Mateo T. Caparas, Sabino S. Santos and Rafael G. Hechanova.

Bolante is the charter president of Rotary Club of Parañaque South, District 3830.

He was voted Most Outstanding Club President of Rotary International District 3810 for 1990-91.

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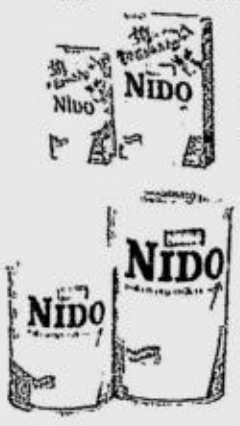

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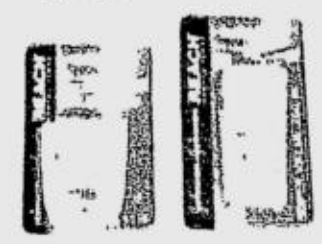

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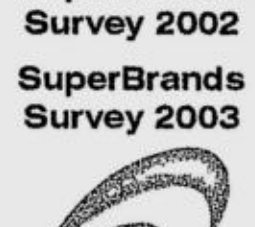

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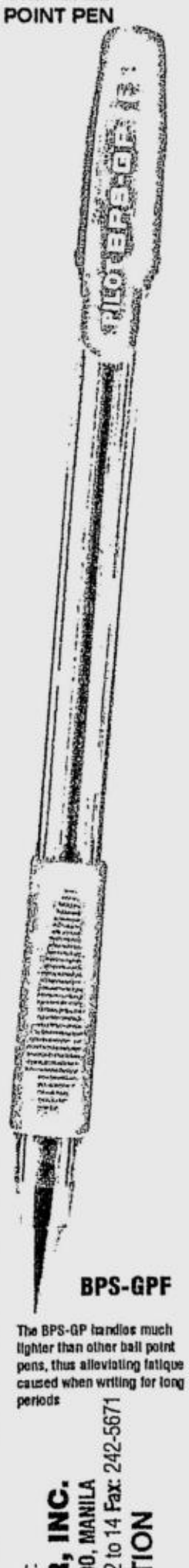

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Peacekeepers assigned to 'volatile' area in Iraq

By Norman Bordadora

THE COUNTRY'S peacekeeping mission to Iraq of some 75 soldiers and policemen might have their hands full when they get to that war-torn country, after it was learned they will be posted in an area where there is "still some volatility and pockets of resistance."

This was revealed by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople in a press conference on Thursday following his meeting with officials of the Philippine Humanitarian Task Force in Iraq at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The contingent will be posted in the region between Baghdad and Basra, an area predominantly settled by Shi-ite Muslims," Ople said, following his meeting with Ambassador Roy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East, and top Armed Forces and PNP officials.

"There is still some volatility in the area and pockets of resistance and trouble-making," Ople said.

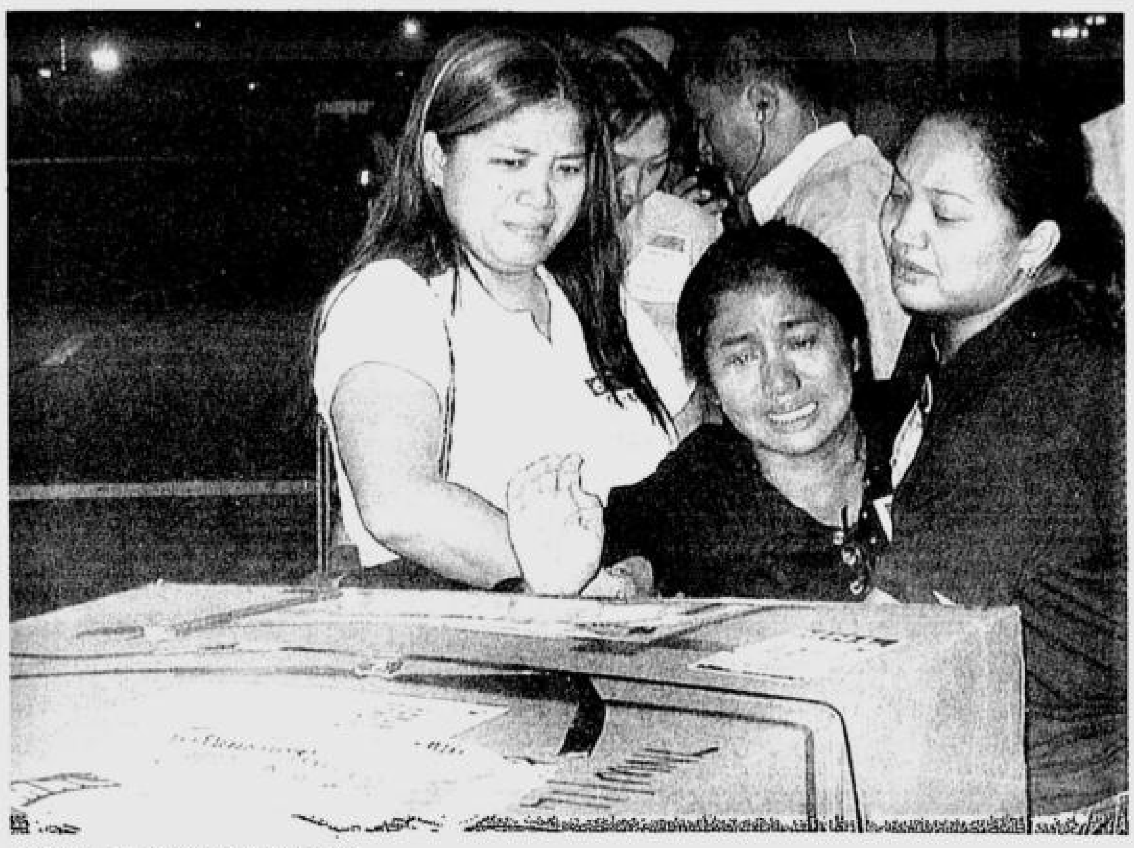
Ople, however, doused fears the peacekeepers would be in any danger.

"The war is over," Ople said. He said the members of the mission would know what to do since "some of them are veterans of peacekeeping missions to East Timor and Cambodia."

The contingent, which will leave for Iraq on June 30, will be under the command of the Coalition Provisional Authority put up by the United States and British occupation forces in Iraq.

"They will be working closely with the international coordinator, Poland, and will be joined by other contingents from the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Latvia and other coalition countries," Ople said.

The AFP contingent will be led by Brig. Gen. Pedro Ramboanga, erstwhile brigade commander in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, while the police contingent will be led by Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, formerly assigned to the Western Police District in Manila.



PAINFUL HOMECOMING
Relatives of the six Filipino seamen who perished in the boiler explosion on the SS Norway cruise ship in Miami, Florida, meet the remains of their loved ones at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Thursday night. The survivors plan to sue the ship's owners over the accident. ROGER MARGALLO

We paid Revillas rent, farmers cry

"WE PAID rent!"

This was the incredulous response of Cavite farmers to actor and Videogram Regulatory Board chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.'s assertion yesterday that tenant-farmers on his father Sen. Ramon Revilla's 25-hectare property in Silang had not been paying rent, not "even five centavos."

The farmers from Barangay Cabangaan said they couldn't believe the younger Revilla, also a former Cavite governor, had said this.

"We are more than willing to provide Bong a copy of our receipts. Unfortunately, this case is beyond the jurisdiction of the VRB," said Teodoro Garcia, chair of the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Cabangaan (Samaca).

Garcia yesterday showed the INQUIRER copies of receipts issued to several farmers over the years allegedly by employees of Senator Revilla, some signed by his daughter Rowena Revilla. The receipts were proof the farmers had paid Revilla for the use of the land, he said.

The receipts—dating from 1995 to 1997—were written on ordinary school paper, bond paper and even the backs of sample ballots and promotional leaflets for a cockfight derby staged by the elder Revilla in 1990.

On one receipt, written on brown school paper, farmer Juanito Sulayao was shown to have paid P660 in "tax" to Rowena on Dec. 26, 1987 for pineapples harvested from the land.

Garcia also showed a copy of a cash disbursement voucher of Imus Productions, the Revillas' film outfit, issued to one Caring Mercao on Oct. 30, 1989 as "payment for service in coconut" amounting to P480.

The INQUIRER was also furnished a copy of farm lease agreements entered into by Revilla with several farmers stipulating the payment of P1,500 as tax per hectare of land per year.

One such agreement, between Senator Revilla (under his real name Jose Bautista) and Alejandro Roces, was notarized by lawyer Teresita See Suelos on Jan. 14, 1992 in Imus, Cavite.

The agreement bound the farmer to pay Revilla within five days after a harvest. In case 75 percent of the harvest was damaged, the farmer was obliged to pay only 25 percent of the amount in the form of crops or cash. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Lawyer seeks changes to Plunder Law

By Volt Contreras and Gerald Lacuarta

A LAWYER yesterday assailed the filing of mere graft charges against 27 government officials and a contractor accused of overpricing in the construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, and called for the overhaul of the law against plunder.

"That's a very restrictive interpretation of the law which results in prejudice to the people," said Leonard de Vera, counsel of former Public Estates Authority director Sulficio Tagud Jr., who blew the whistle on the road building scam.

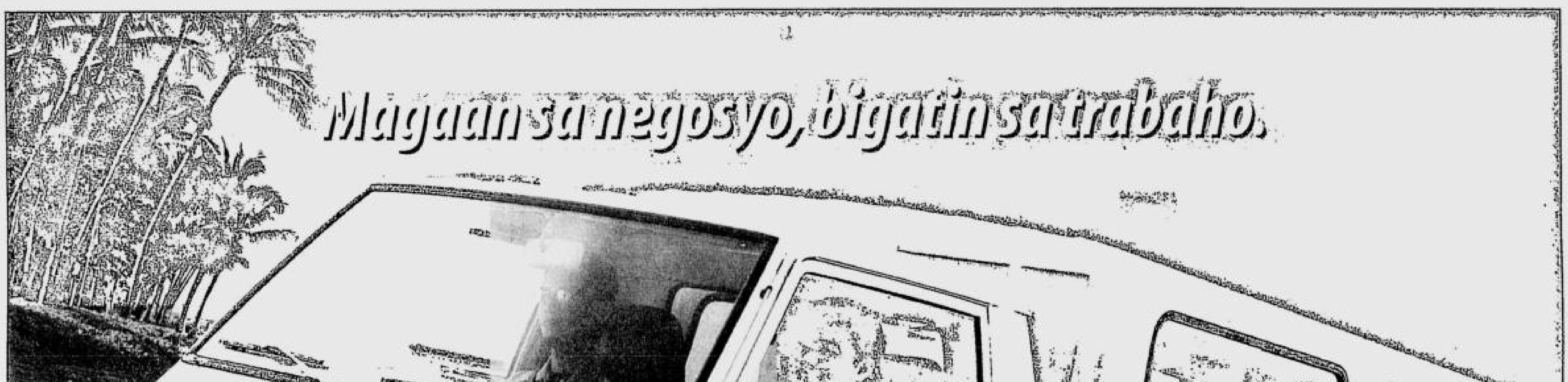
"Because as long as the accused are smart enough not to hide the money in the bank or hide it under another name, it would be almost impossible to prosecute plunder," De Vera said.

The Plunder Law, he said, needs to be amended in such a way that "if there is an overprice (of a government project) there should already be a presumption in law that the overprice money went to the pockets of the public officials held responsible."

De Vera was reacting to the downgrading by the Ombudsman of Tagud's original complaint of plunder, a capital offense, to graft, a much lighter charge where an accused may be granted P30,000 bail for each graft charge.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo explained on Thursday that Tagud's complaint failed to present sufficient proof that the 27 respondents enriched themselves by at least P50 million as a result of the "overpriced" portion of the PDMB.

The P50-million threshold is one of the elements of plunder, he said.



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Now, it's tillers turn to go on hunger strike

FORTY ONE farmers from Negros Occidental started a hunger strike Wednesday night at the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City to compel Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan to install them and 748 others in lands awarded to them under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Edna Sobrecaray, the strikers' spokesperson, said Pagdanganan only committed to install them before August. When asked why the installation would take so long, they quoted Pagdanganan as saying, "*Basta, hindi ko kaya*(I can't swing it.)."

"*Wala na akong magagawa. Hindi ko kayo kayang i*-install *sa inyong mga lupa* (There's nothing I can do. I don't have the power to install you on your land.)," Sobrecaray quoted Pagdanganan.

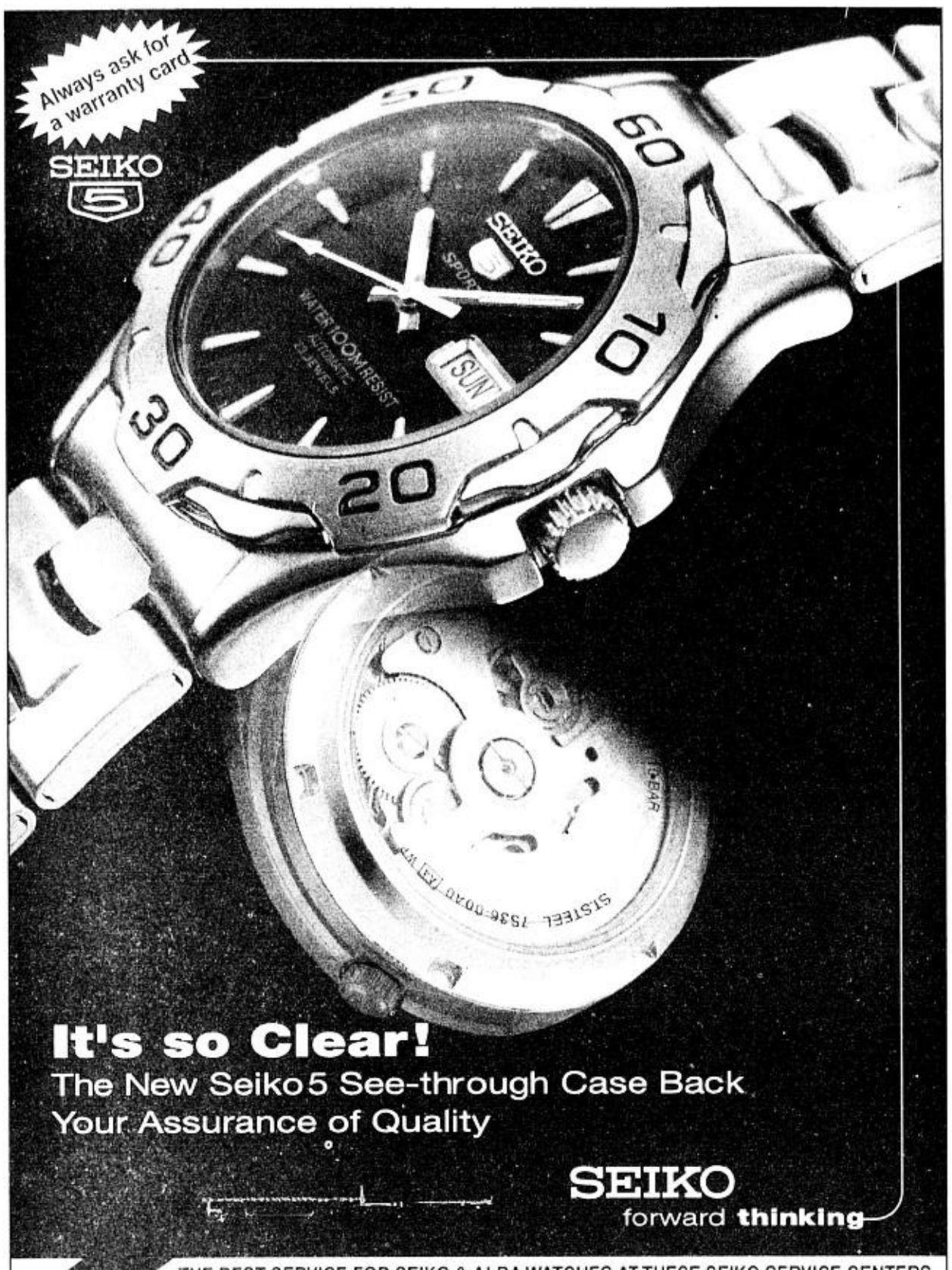
In an interview yesterday, Pagdanganan said what he told the farmers was that he wouldn't be able to install them in two days.

"They asked me if I could install them this week. I told them I could not possibly install them in two days (Thursday and Friday)," Pagdanganan said.

Sobrecaray said the farmers will only lift their hunger strike when they are installed on the land awarded to them in seven haciendas in Negros Occidental. The farmers had been given Certificates of Land Ownership and Award which serve as land titles.

The hunger strikers are part of a bigger group of farmers belonging to Task Force Mapalad, who have been encamped outside DAR headquarters since April 29, when Pagdanganan marked his 100th day in office.

Gerald G. Lacuarta



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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Weird logic

WHAT exactly has convinced President Macapagal-Arroyo that she has earned the right to speak for the world community, only she can say. So far her accomplishments have been confined to following the American lead in a war the world has condemned and getting a pat on the back for it from the man who unleashed it.

Now she comes taking on the robes of a world leader and berating the United Nations for its ineffectiveness. "Unless its security mandate is updated, the United Nations will continue to limp forward, tasked to do much peacekeeping but too feeble or hand-tied to be effective at peacemaking. Perhaps the greatest collateral benefit of the Iraq war that should not be squandered is the opportunity to reform the United Nations and make it a more effective development agent and peacemaker."

EDITORIALS

There is nothing wrong with the UN security mandate. It was working very well until George W. Bush decided to trash it. That mandate says no nation may go to war with another without seeking the approval of the UN Security Council. The UN did not give that approval to the war on Iraq for reasons that should be patent by now. It was thoroughly contrived. The reason Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair cited for that war was the imminent threat Saddam Hussein posed to the United States and to the world. A threat made possible by his possession of weapons of mass destruction. To this day, they have not found any.

Bush simply ignored that rebuff and went to war. A war that was roundly criticized by several UN weapons inspector chiefs, including the present one. Not to speak of the Non-Aligned Movement, a group of more than 100 countries to which the Philippines belongs, whose summit Ms Macapagal attended early this year. Indeed, quite apart from people who have earned the right to be called world leaders, like Nelson Mandela. If the UN has been ineffectual, it is only in stopping a superpower from doing what it pleases, with or without its blessings.

The obvious way to repair the damage is for the superpower to stop doing what it's doing and learn to respect the ways of civilized conduct. Which is to start heeding the voice of the world community. The damage cannot be repaired by the UN agreeing to everything the United States, or Bush, wants. That is not newfound resolve, that is old-fashioned capitulation. That is not effectiveness, that is dereliction of duty. There is no collateral benefit from the war on Iraq that may not be squandered, unless Ms Macapagal means the collateral campaign mileage she got from being feted in the White House. The rest of the world has not benefited from it. On the contrary, it has lost the only organization that has kept the world reasonably peaceful over the last half century. The kind of peace that has kept the world plural and diverse and not the kind of peace that has descended like a pall in Iraq.

The UN was an agent of peace and development before Bush decided to wage war against it—the war in Iraq wasn't just against Iraq. The UN was a force calling for moderation and sobriety when Bush was calling for war and rabid American patriotism. It was a force calling for the saving of the planet through the Kyoto Protocol, which calls for the lessening of carbon emissions to stop environmental ravaging, which the United States has refused to cooperate with.

The President is calling on the wrong party to reform. The UN does not need to reform. The United States does.

And she does, too. But that's best left to posterity to accomplish.

Understandable logic

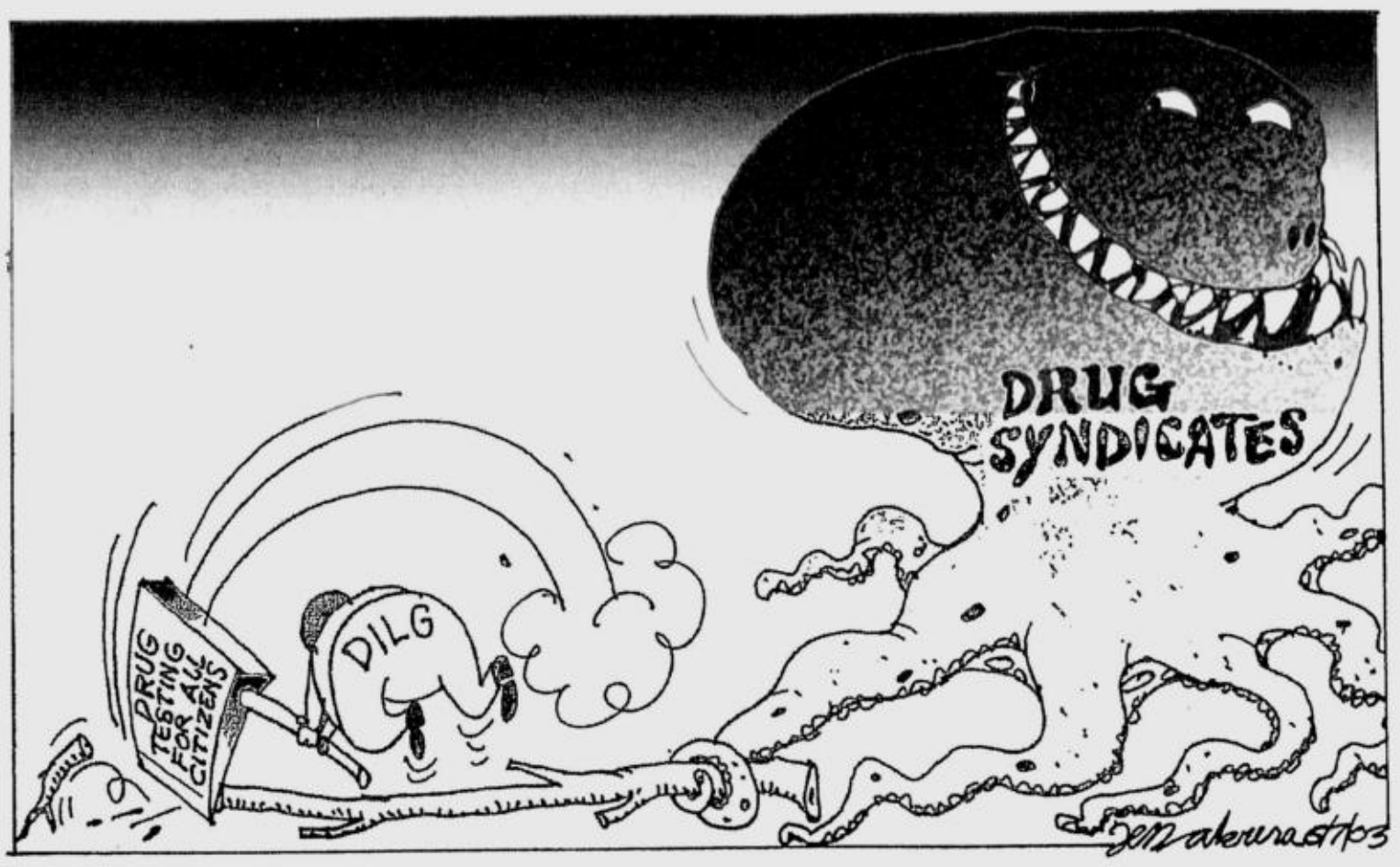
THE REPORT from AFP is commentary enough. It said:

"A powerful parliamentary committee decided on Tuesday to probe Britain's decision to go to war in Iraq, amid claims the government had embellished intelligence on weapons of mass destruction to justify the conflict.

"The decision by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs committee comes after growing demands from deputies for an independent inquiry into allegations Prime Minister Tony Blair's office exaggerated intelligence reports to make Saddam Hussein's regime more menacing ...

"Having won the war in Iraq, both Tony Blair and George W. Bush are coming under fire at home for failing to come up with any convincing trace of Saddam's feared biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

"In both cases, the credibility of the president who prosecuted the Iraq war, and of his staunchest allies, appears to be on the line."



Transacting without funding

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I RECEIVED a letter from my good friend, former Commissioner Bartolome C. Fernandez Jr. of the Commission on Audit, where he served earlier as general counsel for many years. He is the author of a widely-used book titled "A Treatise on Government Contracts Under Philippine Law" that is a must for public accountants and auditors.

The subject of his letter was the recent report from the COA justifying the construction of a 2.8 kilometer portion of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard for the staggering amount of P837.3 million compared to the much lower cost of the longer rest of the road.

According to the papers, the Special Audit Team of the COA that looked into the apparent anomaly justified the higher cost on the ground that the earth on which the shorter portion was laid needed more buttressing. Commissioner Fernandez, however, would look into another aspect of the contract far more important than the practical considerations invoked.

His point is that the challenged contract is null and void for lack of compliance with the applicable legal requirements. The imperative and indispensable condition is that a public bidding and award for a government project may be made only when funds are available for such project as certified by the proper officials. The funding must precede the bidding and award; the process cannot be reversed.

My friend Bart notes from the report of the special audit team that of the several loan applications of the PEA, "the loan with the LBP alone was finally granted for P500 million... The proceeds of said loan was *(sic)* released on April 7, 2000. It was only then that the Construction Agreement between PEA and J.D. Legaspi Construction was executed." The available fund was P337.3 million short of the contract price.

The Construction Agreement stipulated that the work on the project "shall cover only the scope corresponding to said available funds" to be completed only "subject to further availability of funds." This indicated, according to Fernandez, that the rest of the project was yet unfunded at the time the Contract was executed on April 10, 2000.

Section 85(1) of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that "no contract involving the expenditure of public funds by any government agency shall be entered into unless there is an appropriation therefor the unexpended balance of which, free of other obligation, is sufficient to cover the proposed expenditure."

Section 86 provides that a certificate of availability of funds, "signed by the proper accounting official and the auditor verifying it, shall be attached to and become an integral part of the proposed contract." Section 87 provides that any contract not complying with the requirements of the two preceding sections shall be void.

To bolster his conclusions, Commissioner Fernandez points to the case of Comelec v. Padilla, GR 151992, Sept. 18, 2002, where the Supreme Court said, quoting partly from his book:

"It is quite evident from the tenor of the language of the law that the existence of appropriations and the availability of funds are indispensable prerequisites to, or conditions *sine qua non* for, the execution of government contracts. The obvious intent is to impose such condition as *a priori* requisites to the validity of the proposed contract. xxx

"Verily, the contract, as expressly declared by law, is inexistent and void *ab initio*. This is to say that the proposed contract is without force and effect from the very beginning or from its incipiency as if it had never been entered into, and hence, cannot be validated by lapse of time or ratification."

The aforequoted Section 87 goes on to say that "the officer or officers entering into the contract (without the required certification) shall be liable to the government or other contracting party for any consequent damage to the same extent as if the transaction had been wholly between private parties." Take note, PEA.

Commissioner Fernandez is an expert on this matter, and I am inclined to agree with him. I hope the COA will look more deeply into this controversial contract that has raised eyebrows because of its incredible cost that the special audit team has seen fit to justify rather lamely.

At any rate, the pragmatic excuses offered for the PEA are irrelevant because of the nullity of the contract that was entered into without adequate funding and the required certification. Whatever its physical justification, the transaction is totally void and should be deemed never to have existed at all.

Concluding, Fernandez says: "For failing/neglecting to address squarely the pivotal issue of legality of the PEA contract in the light of guiding principles on government contracts as evolved from law and jurisprudence, the COA audit report is vulnerable in this respect. The members of the Special Audit Team that prepared the Report have a lot of explaining to do."

Stop this nonsense

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF the latest newspaper reports are true, the Commission on Elections seems hell-bent on forcing a totally unnecessary and unconscionably expensive plan (*See this column, May 10, 2003*) down the throats of Filipino voters. In the process, it is again thumbing its nose at Congress, a practice which has become tiresome in its frequency.

Thursday's INQUIRER carried the story: In implementing its so-called Voters' Validation System Project or VVS, Phase 1 of its "modernization program," the Comelec is "requesting" each of the 38 million Filipino registered voters to have his registration "validated." It may sound innocuous on its face, but it is actually heaping insult upon injury on all of us.

Injury is inflicted on us voters because although we are already registered under the 1996 Voters Registration Act, which called for a general registration in 1997 and a process of continuing registration thereafter, the Comelec is in effect asking us to repeat the whole process, although it uses the word "validation" rather than "registration." This is because the original project, which it called Voters' Registration and Identification System or VRIS, was shot down by the Supreme Court. So the Comelec, determined to get its way, had to think up of another name. But then, a rose by any other name..., and the "validation" process requires the same information and fingerprinting that are required in registration.

Injury is also inflicted on Congress, because with the validation cum registration the Comelec arrogates unto itself a power—the power to call for a general registration—which belongs only to the legislature. But the arrogance of the Comelec arises, if one is to hazard a guess, precisely because Congress seems to roll over and play dead (for the sake, some say, of followers with pending electoral cases in the Comelec) when the Comelec runs over it.

Three such instances come immediately to mind. The first has to do with the Election Automation Law (RA 8436), which specifically provided that the automation of counting and canvassing be accomplished by 2001. The Comelec, which had more than three years in which to comply, did not do so—and got away with non-compliance without even so much as a reprimand from Congress. The second has to do with the impeachment of Commissioner Luz Tancangco. In this case, Congress broke its own rules and went through other convolutions to whitewash what was essentially an open-and-shut case. And finally, when the Comelec in January suspended without any valid reason the implementation of continuing registration as provided for by the Voters Registration Law (RA 8189, 1996—which also called for a general registration), nary a peep was heard from our lawmakers.

Aside from inflicting injury, the Comelec then insults our intelligence by pretending that it is merely "requesting" us voters—as stated earlier, only Congress can require a general registration—to "validate" our registration. And as if this were not enough, the Comelec also seems to think we either are too dumb to recognize when we are being threatened or are too cowardly to do anything about it.

Because threatened we certainly are. And these are not just veiled threats, either. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos has been quoted as saying that voters who do not cooperate would be put on a "watch list." And being on the watch list means, according to the report, that we will have a hard time come election day, because, again quoting Abalos, we will be "observed and questioned" and our records "double-checked" before we are allowed to vote. Sure, he's only asking for voters' cooperation—but he is doing it while he has a gun to their head.

Now it is entirely possible that Abalos is bluffing, trying to scare us into going along with the Comelec's P1 billion (initial expenditure only) VVS project. After all, he of all people must realize that the Comelec is laying itself wide open to charges of imposing onerous procedural conditions for voters to exercise the right to vote, which could be interpreted as an improper, if not illegal, infringement of that right.

But supposing he is not? What could be the outcome?

Can anyone imagine the confusion and legal disputes on election day 2004 that could arise? Not to mention the potential power this would give to the teachers and local Comelec officials to weed out (or give a hard time to) certain voters, and perhaps even influence some election results—even with automated counting and canvassing. And given the slowness of the election appeals process, it is cold comfort to say that those who were prevented from voting can take the necessary legal action.

It does not bear thinking. The country cannot afford to wait and find out whether this is a bluff or not. We have to stop this nonsense now. And if Congress cannot be depended upon to do so, we must go to the Supreme Court.

But the Supreme Court cannot act motu propio. Someone has to bring a case before it. Which means lawyers. Now this country arguably has more lawyers per capita than the regional or even world average. And there is the so-called Magee Effect, which says that there is an inverse relationship between the number of lawyers in a country and its growth rate.

Here's a golden opportunity for our lawyers to reduce or neutralize that Magee Effect. Let's hope they will come to the country's aid—now.

Erap term already kaput long ago—Salonga

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS various commentators have opined, the camp of former President Estrada appears to have filed the impeachment charge in the House of Representatives against six incumbent justices of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide, and two lawyers who were later appointed to the Court, in order to derail his ongoing plunder trial before the Sandiganbayan. The prosecution has finished presenting evidence against him and Estrada's lawyers should have begun their defense last June 2.

* * *

But apparently, the defense has difficulty coming up with its arguments, and has opted instead for double-barreled moves. His new lawyer, Allan Paguia, filed last May 19 a motion to dismiss the plunder charge on the ground that Estrada is still President and thus enjoys presidential immunity. Lawyer Romeo Macalintal, however, in a well-argued article appearing in various newspapers, stressed that this immunity is not found in the 1987 Constitution. The other move was the filing by former Sen. Rene Saguisag of the impeachment charge against the Supreme Court justices in the House, signed by three opposition congressmen.

* * *

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, however, sees the ploy of the impeachment charge: it seeks to bring down, not just the Court but President Macapagal-Arroyo herself. The thesis of the impeachment charge is that the Supreme Court justices violated the Constitution and their oath of office when they witnessed Davide's illegal swearing in of GMA as President on Jan. 20, 2001 at Edsa.

During a recent dzRH program of Cecile Alvarez, which I co-host, Salonga recalled the fast developments of those historic days in January 2001, "when the venue of the impeachment trial was transferred from the Senate to the parliament of the streets."

* * *

He noted that then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and the three major service commanders, the chief of the PNP and three-fourths of Estrada's Cabinet withdrew their support from him. Salonga pointed out that the PNP group included Panfilo Lacson who even called up Estrada from Camp Crame. Moreover, the two chambers of Congress issued separate resolutions recognizing Ms Macapagal when they resumed session a few days later, and extended this recognition to her choice of vice president, Teofisto Guingona.

"At that point President Estrada could no longer enforce his decrees, and anywhere in the world, such a situation means the leadership is kaput," said the former Senate chief. He quoted US Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience." Our experience, Salonga stressed, is that "when the military, police and Cabinet desert a leader, he is kaput."

* * *

Salonga also noted that Estrada's statement just before he left the Palace in the afternoon of Jan. 20, 2001 was "a very clear goodbye," while his surprise call on Jan. 19, 2001 for a snap election where he would no longer run indicated "he no longer wanted to be President." Salonga also pointed out that since then the international community has extended its recognition to Ms Macapagal, highlighted by her state visit to Washington. In law, the more important thing is the conclusion, Salonga said, adding that while the various Supreme Court justices invoked various arguments regarding Estrada's ouster during their deliberations in February 2001, all of them, including those appointed by Estrada, arrived at the same conclusion: GMA was the President.

"Paano babaliktarin lahat ito, ganoong maliwanag na maliwanag," Salonga asked. *"Mahirap mo namang masasabi na hindi si* Gloria, *kundi si* Erap, *ang pangulo."* Accusing the former President and his lawyers of being "*urong-sulong*," Salonga advised his *kumpadre* Erap, who was once a leading LP member, to concentrate instead on presenting evidence of his innocence before the graft court and finishing the plunder case against him, so that he could clear his name.

* * *

Several friends of mine who reside in Angeles City or San Fernando, Pampanga, such as Ellen Maglalang, Tess Tinio, Ana Hipolito and Finina Galang, have been coming to Manila at least once a week for business. But recently they came crying to this columnist about how, in order to arrive in Manila at 9 a.m., they have to leave Angeles at 5 or 5:30 a.m. because of the horrendous traffic on the Northern Luzon Expressway. One reason is the construction going on in some 12 km of highway in Bulacan and Pampanga, which has closed several lanes of the expressway. Another is that the rains have left hideous potholes on the highway. But compounding the problem is the fact that the firm undertaking the construction, the Australian company Leighton, and its partners, the PNCC and a French company called Aegis, appear to have given up trying to deal with it.

True, it's rainy season, but there's a new type of cold asphalt that can be applied as soon as the rains stop. Moreover, more personnel from Leighton and PNCC/Aegis should be fielded to help regulate traffic and discipline drivers during critical hours. The problem is, they disappear when the rains pour or during those critical hours.

The same lack of visible personnel bugs the Southern Luzon Expressway. Last week a big LPG hauler met an accident and the entire SLEX had to be closed because there was danger of explosions. But the problem was that there were no personnel to head off incoming vehicles from both ends of the SLEX and direct an orderly exit for those already on the highway.

The people are suffering so much and it's heartless of these agencies to ignore them.

Moving on

YOUNG BLOOD

Mikhaiajla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

"HI Ganja!"

That was all I could manage to say when I saw my boyfriend with another girl in a mall one night.

I work as an advertising account manager for a techie magazine and Ganja used to be my client. (Currently, another colleague is in charge of their account.) I met him in January last year. He was a member of a university-based mountaineering club. Our shared passion for mountaineering made us good friends. But I was seeing somebody then so we didn't have the chance to go for a climb until some time later.

My boyfriend and I broke up in September, just after he took the bar (which he flunked). And then there was Ganja. We became close and eventually decided to bring our relationship to another level and become more than friends. It may seem like love on the rebound but, hey, it was okay with us.

Ganja brought out the good girl in me. Before him, I used to date several guys simultaneously. He taught me the beauty of sticking to one guy. I junked my mushy textmates and couldn't go out with my guy friends alone without feeling guilty. Call it the "Taming of the Shrew," if you will. But who would have imagined that a hippie (or *hippie-hippie-han*) bad guy could turn me into this?

I loved this guy who refused to cut his hair short, called me "Sugar" without any emotion, seldom phoned and seldom sent text messages, unlike when we were just friends. Ironically, he was the sweetest thing when we were together.

I got used to his no-text, no-call style until I got sick last February due to too much stress at work. I requested him to visit me. (I was perfectly capable of surviving without him but I'm sure you understand how we girls like to be pampered and all.) I waited until 1 a.m. but there was no Ganja. In anger, I e-mailed him a short but clear break-up message that said: "I AM TERMINATING MY LEASE ON YOU!" It sounded like a good enough way of ending a relationship, but I still yearned for a formal face-to-face closure.

Then we met exactly on our third month as an item. I was really determined to break up with him. I told him all my resentments.

He admitted that there were three of us. The other two, he said, were his ex-girlfriends who were married but sexually unsatisfied. He continued to see them as a way of getting back at them for having married other men. He said he hoped we could work things out.

Call me weak, call me a fool, but I consented and asked for a time frame. He said a month at least and a month and a half at most.

At the back of my mind, I didn't really think we could work things out and I was convinced we would have to break up.

I went out of town. When I came back, he was out of the country. For more than a week we had no communication.

When Ganja came back from abroad, I did not know what to feel. Part of me wanted to let him go, the other part wanted to keep him.

Then I saw that he was really trying to make a go of our relationship. We saw each other more often. He visited me at my house at least three times a week. For my part, I tried to text and communicate with him less often.

Holy Week was the deadline for our one-and-a-half month deal. All my friends were expecting a break-up and I anticipated spending an upcoming trip to the north alone. But an unexpected turn of events found me stuck with him and joining him and his friends on a climb of Mt. Tapulao.

Everything went well during the climb. He was everything I could ask for in a boyfriend. Even though he always went ahead and I always ended up trekking with his male friends, it was okay with me because every time we took a break, he would be ready with a hanky to wipe away my sweat and a bottle of water for me to drink.

Our side trip was also great. I really bonded with his friends and got to see more of the good side of Ganja. We went back to Manila with high hopes that our relationship would flourish.

Then two weeks later, it happened. That night he was supposed to be at home fixing stuff and catching up on his readings. That night was his time for himself, a time for solitude. Foolish I may be, but he was more stupid to be parading his girl (I won't say "other girl" because, for all I know, I may be the other girl) in that place. He knew for a fact that it was the usual haunt of people living near the UP campus.

Now I understand why he made a big issue about my telling my officemates that he was my boyfriend. I learned to understand his need to work overtime even if every time I called his office I was told he had left ahead of everyone else. Above all, I learned that although you love a person in spite of his shortcomings and regardless of his affairs, there comes a point when respect for self reigns supreme and you have to sort your life out. This requires no time frame or deadline. It starts with a decision and the will to carry it out: you want him to move on because you want to move on, too.

Mikhaiajla, 24, is graduate of the University of the Philippines and works as an account manager for a publishing company.

Condemned to a life of pain

FEATURE

Tahir Ikram

AHMEDPUR SHARQIA, Pakistan—Shaheena moans in pain as the fierce summer heat sears her skin. She can no longer see and her once pretty face is horrifically disfigured.

The 15-year-old from Punjab province is one of the hundreds of Pakistani women who fall victim each year to acid attacks perpetrated by jealous husbands or rejected suitors or as plain acts of revenge. For many victims, death would be less painful than living with pain and the humiliation of disfigurement.

Shaheena's nightmare began when the husband of her elder sister, Sakeena, threw acid over them after a row in November. Sakeena suffered 70 percent burns but her face was largely spared. Shaheena was hit full in the face and blinded. Her wounds have still not properly healed and a terrible burning sensation returns every day with a maddening itching.

"I wish I had died that day," Sakeena said in the one-room house in which they live in the small town of Ahmedpur Sharqia, 530 km south of Islamabad. "I was sitting with my sister. He just stood there and looked at us for two minutes and then poured the acid."

She said her sister's life had been ruined. "Who will marry her in this condition? Who will take her? Her face has been destroyed."

The pain of their injuries is bad enough, but the sisters have worse worries. Sakeena's husband is in prison awaiting trial, but they still have to live in his house. They have nowhere else to go and are under constant pressure from his relatives to drop the charge against him and preserve their marriage.

"I have no brother, no father," Sakeena said. "The whole family is behind him, urging us to settle. They say what has happened has happened, forgive him and return to your life."

Rights activists say acid attacks are among the worst of the huge numbers of crimes against women committed in Pakistan, a male-dominated Islamic state where the human rights commission estimates a woman is raped every two hours.

> Acid attacks are among the worst of the huge numbers of crimes against women committed in Pakistan, a male-dominated Islamic state where the human rights commission estimates a woman is raped every two hours

"Burning is the most brutal crime," said Shahnaz Bukhari, head of the Progressive Women's Association, a non-governmental organization helping acid burn victims. "If a woman survives, she is alienated from society, children look at her as if she is an ugly witch."

Bukhari blamed "this possession feeling in our society."

"The phenomena ingrained in our males' minds is that 'I am God on earth'."

The rights commission says, as well as huge numbers of rapes, hundreds of women fall victim every year to "honor killings" in which close male relatives kill a woman to avenge perceived shame she has brought to the family. This can range from having an affair to choosing a husband without the family's consent. Many die or are terribly injured in what are described as "accidents" with kerosene cooking stoves.

Madadgaar, a joint venture of Lawyers for Human Rights and the United Nations Children Fund, recorded 4,485 cases of violence against women in Pakistan in 2002, including murder, rape, burning and physical and sexual abuse. The figures are compiled from media reports and activists say they are a fraction of the actual number.

Rape is considered to bring shame upon a family, so it often goes unreported. "The issue of rape, the issue of incest, child sexual abuse is not talked about," said Bukhari, who has been urging victims to narrate their stories and challenge perpetrators.

But this is easier said than done.

An hour's drive from Sakeena live Mariam Bibi, 45, and her daughter-in-law Nazeeran Mai, 30, who were gang-raped on May 8 in their house in the impoverished village of Pati Kheiara. They were each raped by three men, and say they receive daily threats from one of the suspects, even though he is in police custody.

Bukhari said violence against women was rampant because of an absence of specific laws against domestic violence and loopholes in existing laws. Also, police implementation of laws was ineffective.

Under traditional Islamic law employed in the countryside, four witnesses are needed to convict a person of rape and there are no laws at all against wife-beating.

"We need proper legislation and implementation of the legislation," Bukhari said. *Reuters*

Soldiers' letters

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(This collection of letters was published by the Anti-Imperialist League in May 1899, just a few months after the Philippine-American War began. Many of the letters are from volunteers who enlisted to fight in the Spanish-American War. Special thanks to Roberto Manansan for this e-mail.)

REV. C. F. Dole writes:

"I have a letter from a father in another state whose son is a soldier at Manila: 'The longer I stay here, and the more I see and think of the matter, the more fully convinced I am that the American nation was and is making a blunder. I do not believe the United States is equal to the task of conquering this people, or even governing them afterwards... I don't think I would miss the truth if I said more non-combatants have been killed than actual native soldiers. I don't believe the people in the United States understand the question or the condition of things here or the inhuman warfare now being carried on. Talk about Spanish cruelty: they are not in with the Yank. Even the Spanish are shocked. Of course, I don't expect to have war without death and destruction, but I do expect that when an enemy gets down on his knees and begs for his life that he won't be shot in cold blood. But it is a fact that the order was not to take a prisoner, and I have seen enough to almost make me ashamed to call myself an American.'"

From Captain Elliott of the Kansas Regiment, February 27th:

"Talk about war being 'hell,' this war beats the hottest estimate ever made of that locality. Caloocan was supposed to contain seventeen thousand inhabitants. The Twentieth Kansas swept through it, and now Caloocan contains not one living native. Of the buildings, the battered walls of the great church and dismal prison alone remain. The village of Maypajo, where our first fight occurred on the night of the fourth, had five thousand people on that day—now not one stone remains on top of another. You can only faintly imagine this terrible scene of desolation. War is worse than hell."

From Private Ruppenthal of Company M, Twentieth Kansas:

"Have been in numerous battles and skirmishes since February 4th, and with my own hand set fire to over fifty houses of Filipinos after the victory at Caloocan. Women and children were wounded by our fire."

From Anthony Michea of the Third Artillery:

"We bombarded a place called Malabon, and then we went in and killed every native we met—men, women and children. It was a dreadful sight, the killing of the poor creatures. The natives captured some of the Americans and literally hacked them to pieces, so we got orders to spare no one."

From Leonard R. Adams of the Washington Regiment:

"I don't know how many men, women and children the Tennessee boys did kill. They would not take any prisoners. One company of the Tennessee boys was sent to headquarters with thirty prisoners, and got there with about a hundred chickens and no prisoners."

Charles Bremer of Minneapolis, Kansas, described the fight in Caloocan:

"Company I had taken a few prisoners, and stopped. The colonel ordered them up in to line time after time, and finally sent Captain Bishop back to start them. There occurred the hardest sight I ever saw. They had four prisoners, and didn't know what to do with them. They asked Captain Bishop what to do, and he said: 'You know the orders.' And four natives fell dead."

From Sgt. Will A. Rule of Company H:

"When you can realize four hundred or five hundred persons living within the confines of five or six blocks, and then an order calling out all of the women and children, and then setting fire to houses and shooting down any niggers attempting to escape from the flames, you have an idea of Filipino warfare."

From a sergeant in the Pennsylvania Regiment:

"At Deloma (*La Loma?*) Church, where we came upon a detachment strongly intrenched (*sic*) we buried four hundred and thirty-one Filipinos, while our loss in killed was only one. We buried eighteen in one grave at that place."

From a corporal in the California Regiment:

"We sleep all day here, as we do our duty all night, walking the streets. We make every one get into his house by 7 p.m., and we only tell a man once. If he refuses, we shoot him. We killed over three hundred men the first night. They tried to set the town on fire. If they fire a shot from a house, we burn the house down, and every house near it, and shoot the natives; so they are pretty quiet in town now."

From Robert E. Smith of the Second Oregon:

"We have only to go less than two thousand yards from our present camp to find thousands of well-armed Filipinos ready to give us all the fight we wish. When the battle is on, the native seems to be in his element, and the longer this insurrection lasts the more proficient will he become in the use of arms, and the steadier under fire. Those who think Aguinaldo is a quitter can rest easy or uneasy, just as it suits them; but many of us here do not believe it of him, and think there will be some desperate fighting and insurrection for years to come, owing to the bad feeling now existing against the Americans.... Death, suffering and desolation are looking with baleful eyes upon the thousands of poor Filipinos—men, women and children—on this unhappy island. The American volunteer is as generous as he is brave, and, while knowing that many of his comrades must fall, and perhaps himself, in the struggle about to begin, there is always sympathy in his heart for the enemy in distress. The faces of women and children have a sad and woeful expression, and they will perhaps never learn the fate of fathers, husbands and brothers."

(To be continued)

THEY SAID

Double talk

"We will not stand for double talk."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo, reacting to an attack allegedly launched by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front after it had declared a ceasefire

Uncontrollable

"The mind of a person is not a machine whose direction can be controlled. Just like the moon, when clouds are thick and heavy and dark, its refulgent light cannot be seen by the naked eye."

—The Sandiganbayan, denying Jinggoy Estrada's petition to travel abroad despite his assurance that he would go back

Beyond reform

"For obvious reasons, a convict executed defeats the purpose of reformation or rehabilitation because a dead man clearly can no longer be reformed or rehabilitated."

—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, pushing for the abolition of the Death Penalty Law

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Peace will make it easier to sell RP to tourists

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

PHILIPPINES. Known to be the "Pearl of the Orient." A paradise to every Filipino. Composed of more than 7,000 islands. Yet, recently only Filipinos are able to witness and enjoy her grandeur. Have you ever asked why?

I have been out of the country for more than two years. Although I have come home twice, still I miss the wind of the tropics, the warm hello of my countrymen and the beautiful sunrise and sunset.

I have developed a much stronger sense of nationalism now. I am always proud to talk about our country to people from all parts of the world. That is why when I had the chance to promote our beloved country while abroad, I grabbed the opportunity. I really wanted to let other people know about our country and help attract tourists and visitors. I do agree with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon that with more tourists and visitors coming to our country, there would be a greater possibility of having more foreign investments that will definitely result in more job openings for all of us.

It is given that we can always be proud to talk about and promote our country. But can we answer a very simple question: How is the peace and order situation there?

I have been asked the same question many times by Japanese audiences before whom I spoke, and many times I was speechless.

My work as one of the cultural ambassadors of Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture, Japan resume this month. With issues like the killer disease SARS and terrorism, I am starting to feel worried. I can amaze the Japanese and other people by describing the beauty and bounty of our country, but am I ready to answer questions especially about peace, order and security? I would say no.

I, therefore, appeal to the people concerned. I understand the cause you are fighting for because I grew up on the same island paradise with you and have witnessed the government's lack of support for people and attention to their needs. But do you think fighting with arms, creating instability and destroying the peace and order would help you achieve your cause? You are jeopardizing the future of every Filipino, especially the future of your children and your children's children. The future of our country is in terrible state now and fighting the government is not an option. It is your responsibility to help our government uplift the standard of living of our people.

I and other Filipinos abroad in our own little way are trying to do our part in helping our country's dying tourism industry. But we can do better if you would help us and do your part by giving us all a peaceful and harmonious country to promote.

—RICHARD SANTIAGO LEMENCE,
Niigata University,
Niigata City, Japan

MMDA can't solve flood problem

PERENNIAL flooding in the metropolis is but one example of deteriorating public services in Metro Manila. The lack of flood-control facilities, the garbage crisis and ineffectiveness of the government, particularly the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), are some of the major factors that worsen the flood problem in the metropolis.

Metro Manila is home to more than 10 million people and most of its area lies below sea level yet its flood-control infrastructures such as pumping stations, canal drainage and sewerage systems are inadequate and ineffective.

Metro Manila has only 14 major pumping stations located in Manila, Makati and Pasay. Most of these are dilapidated and they cannot effectively regulate the volume of floodwater in the metropolis. Such is the case with the eight wall-pumping stations and 20 relief-pumping stations in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, the most flood-prone areas in the metropolis.

The flooding is aggravated by the garbage problem. The uncontrolled dumping of garbage clogs drainage canals and esteros. Metro Manila produces an estimated 2.8 million tons of garbage annually or 8,000 tons per day. In 1999, 31 percent of the garbage was illegally dumped, burned and buried. The huge volume of garbage that gets into the waterways reduces the effectiveness of the flood-control facilities.

Most infuriating is the mismanagement and ineffectiveness of the MMDA and local government units. In 2000, the MMDA allocated more than P420 million for solid waste management, but the garbage problem has worsened. This amount does not include hundreds of millions the local governments allocate for the same purpose. Up to now, only 70 percent of the garbage in Metro Manila is collected daily. The flood-prone areas such as urban poor communities and squatters' areas also get the least service in terms of garbage collection.

The MMDA and other concerned national agencies have failed to develop and construct new major flood-control facilities. Most of the on-going flood-control projects of the MMDA are only stop-gap solutions, such as the dredging and de-clogging of drainage canals and esteros.

The recent statement of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando that there will be a 50-percent reduction in floods in the metropolis is a cheap propaganda gimmick to bolster the image of the MMDA and cover up its incompetence. The widespread flooding, the monstrous traffic jams and the suspension of classes and offices in Metro Manila recently due to heavy rains are proof of the failure of the MMDA to solve or significantly reduce the flood problem.

—CLEMENTE G. BAUTISTA JR.
policy advocacy officer,
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment,
26 Matulungin St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Meralco should pay interest on excess charges

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition urges the Energy Regulatory Commission to reopen the public debate and consultation on the Meralco refund case to give serious consideration to the position of consumer groups and people's organizations.

We deplore the ERC's hasty approval of Meralco's partial refund plan without seriously considering proposals from the consumers. The so-called consultation that took place last May 9 was a farce. The ERC denied the consumers due process in determining the refund plan to be adopted and unilaterally decided to adopt Meralco's refund plan.

The ERC must first address several urgent issues before it adopts a refund plan. It should determine Meralco's total obligation to consumers. This obligation should include interest payments accruing from 1994 to 2003. It should pay the cost of money to consumers in the same way creditors collect interest on their loans. The interest payments should be part of a just compensation to consumers.

This puts the amount owed to the consumers in the region of P41 billion. Residential consumers stand to receive around P3.7 billion in interest payments on top of the more than P10 billion collected from them.

In addition, the ERC should publicly disclose the whole refund plan before it implements any phase of this plan. Any refund plan should be acceptable to the consumers, as the money involved is their hard-earned money.

—LIDY B. NACPIL,
secretary general,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St., Central District,
Quezon City

* * *

A FEW organizations have suggested that, to calculate the amount to be refunded by Meralco, interest from the time the refund amount was accumulated, that is, from February 1994, should be included.

We believe that such a suggestion would not be in accord with the Supreme Court's decision of Nov. 15, 2002, which recently became final and executory. In the dispositive portion of the November 2002 decision, the Court directed that: "...in accordance with the decision of the ERB dated Feb. 16, 1998, the excess average amount of P 0.167 per kilowatt-hour starting with Meralco's billing cycles beginning February 1994 is ordered to be refunded to Meralco's customers or correspondingly credited in their favor for future consumption."

Thus, according to the Supreme Court, the computation of the refund is straightforward: 16.7 centavos multiplied by the kilowatt-hours (kWh) Meralco sold since February 1994. The Court did not say 16.7 centavos per kWh plus interest.

In its decision, the Court sustained the Energy Regulatory Board's 1998 decision, which in turn was premised on the ERB's order of Jan. 28, 1994. The ERB's 1994 order, it will be recalled, provisionally authorized Meralco to increase its rates by 18.4 centavos per kWh, with the following caveat: "In the event, however, that the Board finds... that [Meralco] is entitled to a lesser increase in rates, all excess amounts collected... as a result of this Order shall either be refunded to them or correspondingly credited in their favor."

It will be seen from the above that, from the beginning up to the end, there is no mention of interest being paid by Meralco.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide our thoughts on the issue. Please assure your readers that Meralco will comply with the decision of the Supreme Court.

—WIGBERTO E. TAÑADA,
Tañada, Vivo & Tan,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,
6/F Strata 2000 Building,
Emerald Avenue, Pasig City

No money for lieutenant's widow's pension

I AM writing this on behalf of my mother, Rosalina U. Caturla, who, as the beneficiary of my late father, Lt. Fraterno B. Caturla Sr., should continue to receive his monthly and old-age pensions.

My father, as a retiree from the AFP, used to receive monthly and old-age pensions until his death on June 18, 2002. Some time in August of the same year, my mother flew to Manila to personally seek the transfer of the payment of the pensions from my father's name to hers. She stayed for almost a month. Now, our family is about to commemorate my father's first death anniversary and still my mother has not started receiving the pensions.

My older brother who is in Manila called the other day to tell my mother that the old-age pension will be paid starting June 2003. In other words, the pension accumulated from July 2002 up to May 2003 will not be paid. According to the PVAO, it will not be paid yet because no funds are available.

How come? The PVAO continued to pay the old-age pension (P15,000 was credited to my father's account representing his pension for July, August and September) as late as Nov. 4, 2002. Was the old-age pension due to my father not already allocated for him? I cannot understand that now that the pension will be paid to my mother, there suddenly are no funds.

They just don't know how my mother felt upon knowing that the old-age pension will be paid only starting June 2003. She is old and sickly and the accumulated old-age pension from the time of my father's death would be a great help to her.

—NICHOLAS U. CATURLA,
Kaskag Village, Surigao City

No one has a patent for 'ginebra'

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S Spanish-English Dictionary says that *ginebra* is the Spanish translation of "gin" and is described as *bebida alcoholica* or alcoholic beverage/drink.

Derived from grain (particularly corn or barley), gin or *ginebra* has become the alcoholic drink of choice for many Filipinos. We have adopted *ginebra*, originally Dutch in origin, as our own such that it accounts for a significant slice of the 230 million-proof liters of distilled spirits produced in 2000.

Given *ginebra's* popularity and generic nature, it is amusing that some unnamed officials of La Tondeña (now Ginebra San Miguel, Inc.) are allegedly entertaining the silly idea of filing "trademark infringement and unfair competition" charges against its rival, Tanduay, for launching several products bearing the *ginebra* name. This was reported in the INQUIRER last May 16.

Branding Tanduay's version of *ginebra* as a "rip-off," San Miguel executives are again reacting in a manner reminiscent of its monopolistic past. That it wants to arrogate unto itself sole use of a generic term is so typical of the corporate giant's strategy to monopolize the market for distilled spirits.

—CECILIO H. PENSON,
Philippine Marketing Association Inc., Makati City

Graft must be stopped at all levels of government

THE FIGHT against graft and corruption in the bureaucracy must be waged on all levels and all fronts. Not only officials in Manila or national government officials should be the focus of attention, but also those on the regional, provincial, municipal and barangay levels. Local government units must be carefully watched on how they spend public funds since many projects are reported to have been duly accomplished upon a certification of the municipal or provincial engineers although they are not. The people are tired of this double dealing which must be corrected once and for all.

The only office that can stop this is Malacañang, under the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President should order an audit of all government offices to determine if government funds are utilized according to the budgetary programs of all government offices. Most of the time funds budgeted for a certain project may not be actually used for that particular purpose. All funds which were budgeted should be accounted for and properly liquidated.

We have the Commission on Audit, but it doesn't function as the government's financial watchdog. In fact many officials of the COA even help corrupt officials juggle funds.

Many government offices do not follow internal audit procedures. Some offices have their own ways of keeping their books, making it easy for some officials to appropriate government money for self-aggrandizement.

This is a violation of the existing laws, especially RA 6713.

It is high time our government put an end to these anomalous and wicked acts by prosecuting all erring government officials regardless of who they are. The guilty should be punished and jailed.

—LEONARDO MAGLAGOT MONTEALTO,
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Chess with Bayani Fernando

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

IT took three university presidents and a call from President Macapagal-Arroyo who was in South Korea to stop the Metro Manila Development Authority from cutting more gracious trees and lovely flowering shrubs on Katipunan Avenue's sidewalks and center islands for the nonce.

In their hurry to widen the road beginning in mid-May, purportedly to ease Diliman's traffic before classes open, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and his general manager Robert Nacianceno have been employing fair means and foul, like operating under heavy monsoon rains to avoid protesters. This has invited an ongoing cat-and-mouse game with environmentalists, the beginning of a Senate probe and media brouhaha over Fernando's real motives.

It has also compelled the Mother Earth Network's chess tournament player, Odette Alcantara, into game mode. In grandmaster strategy advised by Jovito Salonga, today Valle Verde's venerable bishop of zero waste management, Fr. Joaquin Bernas for the Ateneo, Miriam president Patricia Licuanan, and vice chancellor Gil Gotianco for the University of the Philippines, on one side of the chess board, finally flushed out a stonewalling Fernando to a dialogue in Malacañang last June 3. There he had to promise Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo that the execution of Katipunan's trees stops for now, pending reasoned mutual solution of the high-profile battle in a raging global chess war between opposing world views.

This game, with live players a la Harry Potter, began for Alcantara when Annie Cruz of Miriam College's regreening movement roused her from bed two Sundays ago, "crying like Sisa." Years of caring for her Crispins and Basilios of the vegetable kingdom on Katipunan—begun in the 1990s by former Miriam president Nina Galang, the Quezon City government and former MMDA Chair Ben Abalos—were ending under Fernando's boot. So Alcantara called Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun who sent foresters to Katipunan to reexamine a plan not even Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte knew about.

Gozun would next discover that her boss, President Macapagal, was on Fernando's side, totally sold on his claim that no trees would die on Katipunan if they were "balled"—i.e., uprooted with root systems intact. Soon the contrary would be reported by the foresters—among those trees were lovely ancient acacias with lateral root systems, veritable Rajah Matandas and Princess Urdujas. They would surely die under the MMDA's super-expensive but crude balling system, much like homesick *nanays* and *tatays* languishing to death upon joining their successful émigré children abroad.

The core of controversy emerged: civil engineer Fernando's bias for an engineering solution to the mortal combat between Nature and vehicular traffic in Metro Manila. Worse, state power wielded by a bias married to insufficient appreciation of natural laws seems determined to impose its one-dimensional (two, at most) view of reality.

Media reports have also begun to suggest that traffic is not the only reason Fernando is literally digging in on Katipunan. Massive "de-greening" is lucrative enough to build a war chest for a further ascent on the political ladder. Protest on Katipunan is therefore "a dangerous precedent" in a far larger plan to cut trees all over Metro Manila—believe it or not, as "traffic obstructions" whose water-retaining root systems also "impede the drainage of floodwaters." Hello. Isn't it just the opposite?

Scientific fact is repeated like a mantra in Miriam College's statement: "Trees absorb rainwater to prevent flooding and replenish groundwater and aquifers" as they "counteract pollution, cool the surroundings and add psychological and aesthetic value to urban lifestyles progressively spent in concrete jungles."

Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, far-ranging bishop, adds, "We fail to see how removal of the islands will improve traffic flow. The choke points are the left-turn lanes into La Vista, Miriam College and Gate 3 of Ateneo. There are, in fact, no islands here which can be removed to improve traffic flow... removing (them) will remove the buffer which protects our students, pedestrians, residents and establishments from the main thoroughfare."

Miriam's Licuanan, a queen if there ever was one, homes in for the groves of academe: "What do we teach our children when we callously and arbitrarily cut trees in the name of progress? A safe and healthy community is more difficult to build than yet another highway." Check, Chairman Engineer, Senator/President Wannabe.

Knowing it's been torture for the hero of Marikina to be lectured by academe under a barrage of media sniping, Gotianco asked Fernando at the Palace dialogue why he hadn't bothered to explain a scheme of long-range consequence to Metro Manila the way he did as mayor of Marikina. The silence that reportedly met this question was eloquent—its more charitable interpretation being a long learning curve on what only trees can do for human well-being that today's fourth graders recite with ease. And so a well-cultivated media image of reviving Metro Manila under Fernando is cracking. We have now began counting the trees cut in historical Marikina by "the only local government with a balling machine."

Resisting this man on degreening the rest of our dying mother city is the only way to go, in the rich potential of linking a roused Diliman community with the university presidents (more queens and kings) and student bodies (queening pawns all) in the España-Morayta-Recto-Mendiola university belt. Megalopolis-wide defense of all green patches—achingly beautiful in sun and rain, progressively uglifying Metro Manila's last saving grace—is as fine a jihad as jihads go.

Nothing but pride and stubbornness prevents Fernando from realizing on his own that a solution to this dilemma lies in the deeper strata of his own stated ideal—*urbanidad*, refinement and elegance at ease in a civilized social order born of and nourished by Nature, in case he has forgotten.

Philippine history has thus far been a long heritage of lethal shortcuts. The fact remains, Mister Chairman, Madame President: no one will be spared the agony of an individual paradigm shift under the threat of a new, far more definitive deluge.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A11

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Blix: Don't conclude Iraq has banned arms

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Deadly Iraqi resistance continued against US forces in Fallujah, with one American soldier killed and five wounded, while US President George W. Bush kept talking up prospects of finding Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

In New York, outgoing chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix warned Thursday against jumping to conclusions that Iraq possesses mass destruction weapons.

"They might (exist)—there remain long lists of items unaccounted for—but it is not justified to jump to the conclusion that something exists just because it is unaccounted for," he told the Security Council on Thursday.

Blix also said that the chances of discovering whether Saddam destroyed or concealed illegal weapons have significantly improved because "witnesses should no longer be inhibited to reveal what they know, it should be possible to establish the truth."

UN nuclear experts are preparing to enter Iraq from neighboring Kuwait on Friday to inspect the sprawling Tuwaitha facility southeast of Baghdad on Saturday.

Pentagon officials said US forces had retrieved more than 100 metal barrels and five radiological devices possibly looted from Tuwaitha following the March 20 invasion.

The officials said radioactive material may have been stolen from Tuwaitha, and feared it could be used by terrorists for a "dirty bomb" to spread low levels of radioactivity over a large area. None of the Tuwaitha materials were of high enough quality to make a nuclear bomb.

The latest killing of a US soldier comes as Bush and his other pro-war allies face domestic pressure over the credibility of the case to attack Iraq for its suspected possession of weapons of mass destruction.

No evidence of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons was uncovered during the UN inspections before the war and following Saddam's ouster some two months ago.

Thursday's rocket-propelled grenade attack on US forces in Fallujah, about 50 km west of Baghdad, was the latest in a series of strikes on coalition forces occupying the tense city since Saddam's fall.

In Qatar, which hosted the US command center for the war, Bush wrapped up a Mideast visit by defending the US reasoning for invading Iraq.

"We're on the look. We'll reveal the truth," Bush said without promising weapons would be found. "But one thing is certain: no terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi regime because the Iraqi regime is no more."

The lack of evidence proving Saddam held such weapons has left Bush and principal war allies, particularly British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in hot water back home.

While Bush's US approval ratings remain high, Blair is embroiled in the biggest controversy of his six-year tenure, accused of exaggerating the dangers Iraq posed. *AP*

Bush's truthfulness on the line–Byrd

WASHINGTON—Sen. Robert Byrd—one of the most outspoken critics of US policy in Iraq—welcomed calls Thursday for a congressional probe into US troops' not having found weapons of mass destruction there, and called into question President George W. Bush's "truthfulness" on the matter.

"What amazes me is that the president himself is not clamoring for an investigation," Byrd said from the floor of the Senate.

"It is his truthfulness that is being questioned. It is his integrity that is on the line," the West Virginia Democrat said.

"Yet he has raised no question, expressed no curiosity, about the strange turn of events in Iraq—expressed no anger at the possibility that he might have been misled." "How is it that the president who was so adamant about the dangers of WMD, has expressed no concern about the whereabouts of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq?" Byrd said.

Byrd, 85, the longest serving member of the Senate—has served in Congress' upper chamber 1959, and served in the US House of Representatives for several years before that.

He is not known for being particularly liberal, having belonged once to the anti-integrationist Ku Klux Klan, nor as a pacifist, having been a staunch supporter of the US war in Vietnam. *AFP*

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Suu Kyi victim of 'premeditated ambush,' says US

WASHINGTON—Worldwide outrage swelled Thursday over the detention of Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, with the United States saying she appeared to have been the victim of a "premeditated ambush" by "government affiliated thugs." The Nobel peace laureate was arrested by the military junta during a political tour with members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party and is being held at a military camp outside Burma's capital, Rangoon, according to reports.

Her arrest came after clashes between her supporters and a military-backed group. The military reported four deaths, but sources in the country have said several dozen people may have died.

Officials from the US Embassy in Rangoon visited the site of the May 30 "violent attack on Aung San Suu Kyi and her traveling party," state department spokesperson Philip Reeker said in a statement.

"Their findings indicate that there was a premeditated ambush on Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade," it said.

"Circumstances and reports from individuals in the region indicate that the attack was conducted by government-affiliated thugs."

In the US Congress, two prominent senators renewed calls for trade sanctions against Burma following the latest detention.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg demanded that Burma's junta release her and called on the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) "to provide a full accounting of the dead, injured, and missing.

"The continued detention in isolation of Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of her political party is outrageous and unacceptable," the parliament said in a resolution. "We call on the SPDC to release them immediately."

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer called upon the Burma authorities to release Aung San Suu Kyi and let her to meet a UN envoy due to start a visit to the country on Friday.

Berlin "strongly condemns" her detention and is "greatly concerned" at reports that she had been injured," he said in a statement. *AFP*

Violence dulls Mideast peace talks

JERUSALEM—The afterglow of a US-led Middle East summit faded on Thursday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat saying Israel had offered nothing "tangible" and hardliners on both sides vowing to oppose a road map to peace.

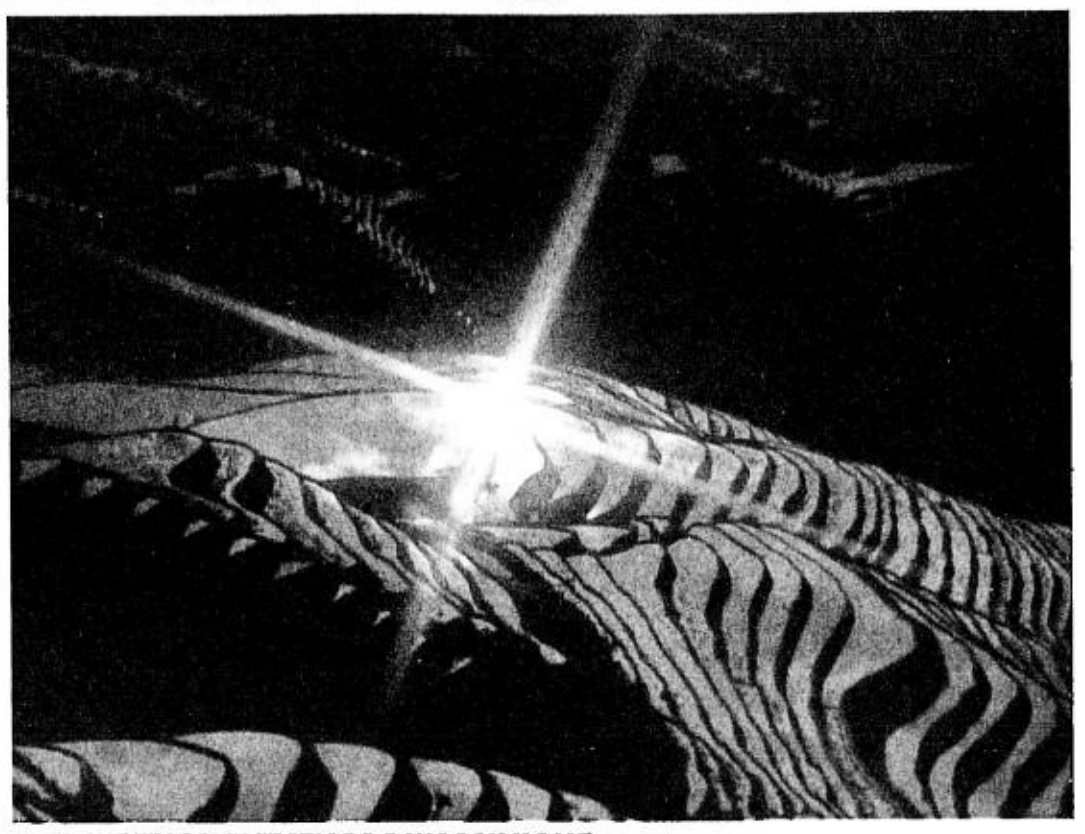
Just a day after the summit, Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians in the West Bank, a sign the 32 months of violence Washington had hoped to end was unlikely to abate.

In a village near the West Bank city of Tulkarm, soldiers entered a home to arrest three armed Palestinians ignoring calls to surrender, opened fire, and killed two, the military sources said. Residents confirmed two Palestinians were shot dead.

Israeli security sources said the Palestinians were members of the Islamic militant Hamas group planning a suicide attack against Israel.

Arafat, who was excluded from Wednesday's landmark talks in Jordan but apparently played a behind-the-scenes role, dismissed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's summit pledge to uproot some settler outposts in the West Bank as meaningless.

"Unfortunately, he has not yet offered anything tangible," the Palestinian leader told reporters at his battered West Bank headquarters in Ramallah. *Reuters*



AND WE THOUGHT IFUGAO WAS UNIQUE
This picture taken on the morning of June 4 shows the famous Jinkeng Terraces in the county of Longsheng of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Although May and June are the golden months for tourists to visit the Jinkeng Terraces, fewer tourists have come to the terraces this year. AP

100TH TRIP

Pope urges Croats to heal war wounds

OMISALJ, Croatia—Pope John Paul, beginning the 100th foreign trip of his papacy on Thursday, urged Croatia's leaders to heal wounds inflicted by war and communist rule.

Church bells rang out across the former Yugoslav republic, a bastion of Roman Catholicism in the Balkans, as the Pontiff's plane landed in bright sunshine on the Adriatic island of Krk.

The Pope told a crowd of several thousand welcomers that Croatia still bore scars from the war it fought for independence in the 1990s as communist Yugoslavia collapsed. He also voiced support for Croatia's bid to join the European Union.

"May those who exercise civil and religious authority never tire of trying to heal the wounds caused by a cruel war and of rectifying the consequences of a totalitarian system that for all too long attempted to impose an ideology opposed to man and his dignity," he said in a speech at the airport.

The trip to Croatia will be a stamina test for the Pope, who suffers from Parkinson's disease and arthritis—although he has appeared in better health in recent months.

As has become customary, the Pope was lowered from his plane and pushed along a red carpet on a small wheeled platform before making his speech.

A large boat then took him on a 20-minute sail across the Adriatic to the city of Rijeka, his base for the five-day visit.

In Rijeka, the Pope—although appearing tired by the ceremony and sweltering heat—was driven in his trademark white Popemobile along the waterfront and through city streets, waving to tens of thousands of cheering believers along the way. *Reuters*

For first time since outbreaks, Asia reports no new SARS cases

BEIJING—Asia reported no new SARS cases Thursday for the first time since countries began reporting daily figures, as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the global outbreak of the deadly virus had peaked.

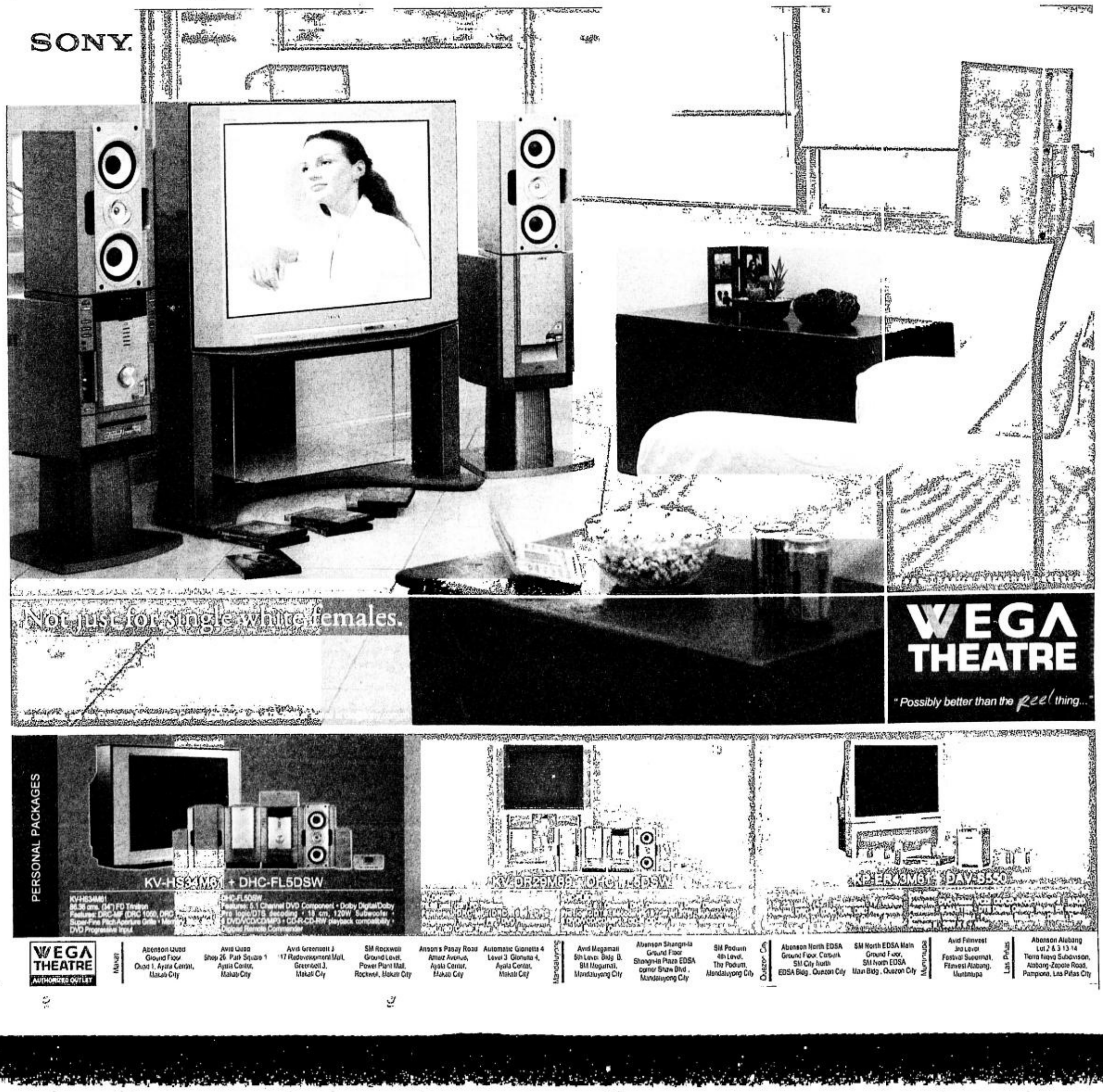
News that China, Hong Kong and Taiwan had reported no new cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) came after the WHO noted that no new deaths had been reported globally on Wednesday for the first time since March 28.

The number of fatalities edged higher with China reporting two more and Hong Kong's health authorities announcing one new fatality.

In Canada, the only country outside Asia to suffer SARS deaths, health officials said a second major outbreak was on the wane.

Even the usually cautious WHO was prepared to say SARS was on the run after killing more than 770 of nearly 8,400 people who have caught the pneumonia-like disease, which has wreaked economic havoc in several Asian regions and badly hurt the global travel industry.

"We dare to say that the SARS epidemic is over its peak period," Henk Bekedam, chief representative for the WHO in China, told a news briefing. *AFP*



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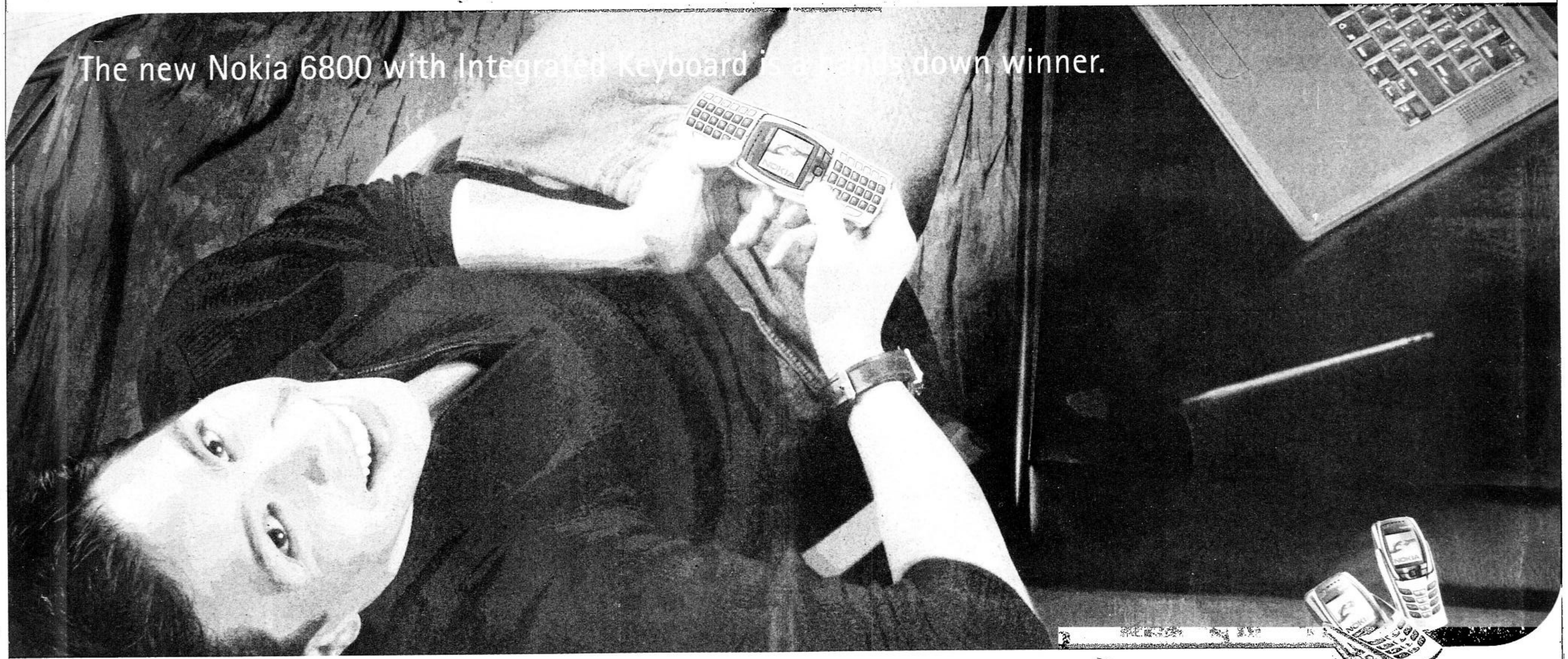

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JUETENG EXPOSÉ

Bishop won't apologize to Isabela gov

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Bishop Ramon Villena of the diocese of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino said no apology would be forthcoming for Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. over the bishop's remarks that dragged Dy into the 'jueteng controversy' in the province.

"I know deep in my conscience that I did not do anything wrong," said Villena.

Last month, the Isabela board asked Villena to issue a public apology to clear Dy, whose name was dragged into the controversy surrounding the short-lived return of jueteng operations in the province in February.

"The statements of the bishop were libelous in character as these were released without regard to the sensibilities of (Dy) as a hardworking and honest government official," the resolution read.

But Villena said he remained firm in his pronouncement. "You only apologize if you have done something wrong. I will not apologize because I did not fabricate what I said," he said.

The bishop, however, clarified that he, through his lawyer, would submit a letter to the provincial board on the jueteng issue.

Quoting a top police official, Villena reiterated his statement that Dy had supposedly "influenced" officials here to allow the return of jueteng in Nueva Vizcaya.

The bishop said he had reasons to believe that his informant, whom he considered a "credible source," had "the resources of intelligence and investigation."

"I took (my informant's) word because of the fact that truly enough, in Isabela, lantaran ang jueteng (jueteng operations are very obvious)," Villena said.

The operation is so rampant, Villena declared, that according to a member of the anti-jueteng regional monitoring board, "even policemen are placing bets."

Dy had denied Villena's allegations, saying he had no time meddling into the affairs of other provinces, such as those of Nueva Vizcaya. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Women's groups score porn video producers

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Council and the women's groups here have condemned the filming of the sexual trysts separately involving three prominent young ladies here and the same two young men.

Councilor Myrish Cadapan-Antonio said in her privilege speech on Thursday that "vicious beasts" ,with "twisted minds" were responsible for the filming of what was "supposed (to be a) sacred and private act."

"What crazy human being could bear to even distribute the recorded video of the same to the public ... for a measly sum," she said.

Councilor Rommel Erames said the sex scandal destroyed not only the reputation of the women in Dumaguete but also the city's image as a peaceful place and inhabited by decent and intelligent people.

"This reputation, which we have built and lived by since time immemorial, is shattered overnight by some unscrupulous businessmen who sold their soul to the devil in consideration of blood money earned at the expense of the honor and dignity of unsuspecting and innocent women," Erames said.

The videos showed separate sexual trysts of three women and two men that took place in a house with a hidden camera mounted above the room.

The circulation of the videos had badly affected the lives of the women involved.

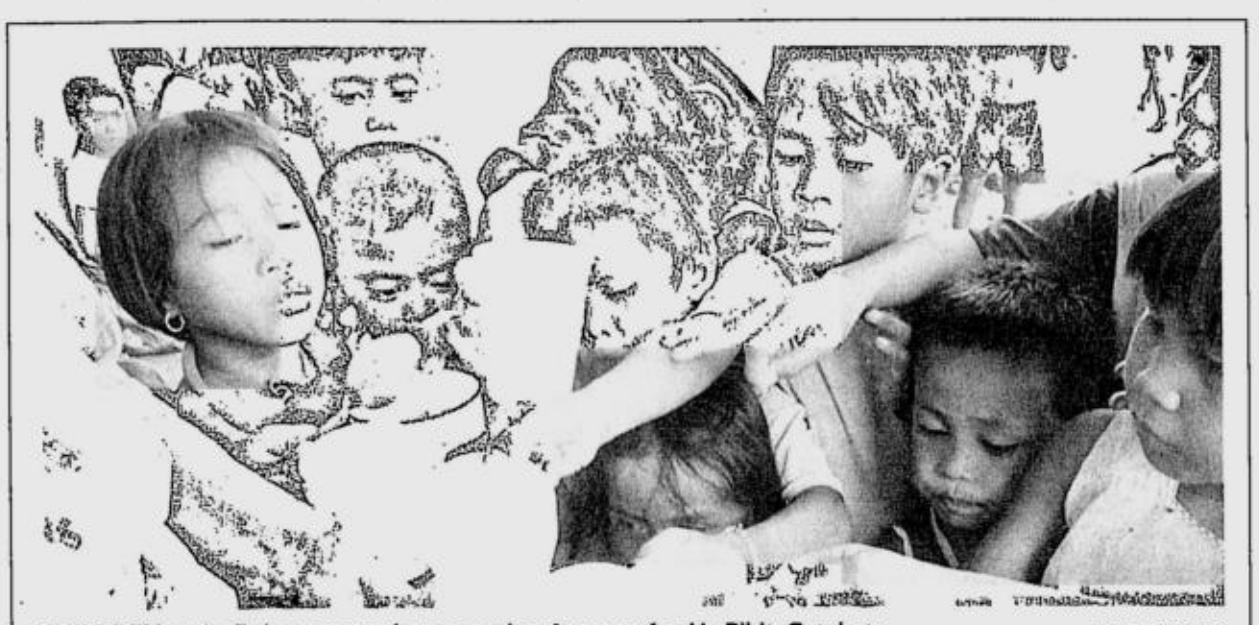
One of the women attempted to kill herself apparently due to extreme shame brought about by the scandal. She was still single when the film was taken around 1999.

Sources said the other woman was about to be married early this year, but her boyfriend backed out following the scandal.

Trelly Marigza, Gabriela chair, condemned the filming and circulation of the videos.

"This categorizes women as just physical bodies and ordinary commodities for profit. It does not treat women as humans but as objects that can be subjected to anything," she said.

Ruth Ruiz of the Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation dared the government to arrest the perpetrators. ***Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***



CHILDREN at the Buisan evacuation center beg for more food in Pikit, Cotabato. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tribe members market local wine to raise funds for sick boy

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Members of various tribes in Sadanga, Mt. Province, are improving the packaging and marketing of *basi*, a sugarcane wine, to raise funds for the heart surgery of a month-old boy.

The wine, called fvayash by Sadanga villagers, is being distributed to organic food shops here to raise funds for Aldwin Baldo, who is suffering from a congenital heart disease.

Baldo, who is confined at the Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart, needs P400,000 for his operation.

Letty Pangket, a member of the Betwagan tribe in Sadanga, said they are selling the wine, mostly used in village festivities and rituals, to help Baldo's parents pay his hospital bills.

She said her group would set aside 10 percent from each bottle of wine sold for Baldo's medical expenses. Each bottle sells from P250 to P350.

Pangket said her group chose Baldo as the beneficiary of the project because they learned that his parents, who are both public school teachers in Itogon, Benguet, could not shoulder all his medical expenses.

Daisy Lee, a friend of Baldo's parents, learned about the family's problem and immediately sought Pangket's group.

Pangket and some friends formed Phoenix Group, a group of women from different towns in Mt. Province. The group packaged the wine to give it a distinctive Sadanga origin.

"People always say that we make the best sugarcane wine in the Cordillera. Some would even travel to Sadanga to get this wine," Pangket said.

She said the wine's production is not on a commercial scale, because they follow the traditional Sadanga practice of wine making.

Sadanga elders process the wine, which uses locally grown sugarcane and herbs, every December during a wine-making festival, after the rice harvests.

Farmers harvest sugarcanes using the fvalliwesh, a juicer made of metal and a boulder.

After the juice is extracted and cooked, a local herb is added for aroma and to give the wine its distinct taste.

The wine is traditionally fermented in earthen jars called *burnay* and is kept in the *agamang* (rice granary). The aging process takes three to six months.

"The fvayash which we distribute in Baguio comes directly from the rice granaries of Sadanga. This wine will not only benefit the people whom we want to help but will also help our villagers (augment their) income through winemaking," Pangket said.

She said the fvayash would be sold in recycled commercial red wine bottles. The bottles will have woven rattan handles crafted by Sadanga weavers.

"(This) way, we are not only helping sick people (with) their financial needs, we also help the members of our community to earn," Pangket said.

Judge hit for dismissal of drug case

PAGADIAN CITY—Church leaders here are up in arms against a local judge for dismissing a drug case against a suspected notorious drug trader allegedly for a fee.

Organizers of the Interfaith forum, including Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Zacarias Jimenez, were set to stage an indignation rally against Judge Reinerio Abraham Ramas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 18.

Ramas had earlier cleared Ivanhoe "Bobby" Bana from charges of maintaining a drug den while reducing the suspect's bail bond for illegal possession of firearms and two counts of illegal possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

For more than three years, Bana went into hiding until police arrested him in September 2002 while playing mahjong at the back of the police provincial command here.

He was immediately taken into custody.

On May 9, Ramas cleared Bana from charges of maintaining a drug den despite strong opposition from the city prosecutor.

But the magistrate said he acted in good faith.

Jimenez, in a press briefing, said, Interfaith was gathering evidence that about P3 million was involved in the dismissal of one of the charges against Bana.

Fr. Felix Tigoy, Interfaith convenor said: "There was a glaring anomaly in the decision of the court in dismissing the case against Bana."

He said it was not the first time they were told about Ramas's decision for a fee.

"Cases in our local courts, especially in Branch 18 presided by Judge Ramas can be fixed (according to reports)," Tigoy said.

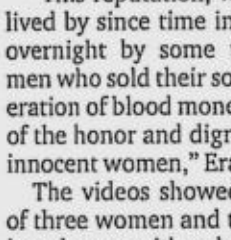
Ramas described the allegations as unfair and malicious. "It is not proper to say that there is something fishy behind the dismissal of the case."

He said the allegations against him have put the entire judiciary in a bad light.

The dismissal of one of the cases against Bana was prompted by the prosecution's failure to ensure that the evidence was solid, he said.

"It must be beyond reasonable doubt . . . in this case, the prosecution (fell) short of the standard in prosecuting a crime," Ramas said. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE
IT IS exactly 390 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Bongbong hits Malacañang for depriving Ilocos Norte of tobacco tax share

LAOAG CITY—Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. continued harping on Malacañang for allegedly depriving Ilocos Norte and other tobacco-growing provinces of the tobacco excise tax windfall.

"We have constantly claimed that since President Macapagal-Arroyo came in, she recognized Ilocos Sur as the only tobacco-producing province. The only province that receives the tobacco excise tax is Ilocos Sur," Marcos told reporters here on Wednesday.

Marcos was reacting to reports that the tobacco tax share had been the milking cow of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Local governments derive tax allocations from Republic Act 7171, which includes an amount equivalent to 15 percent of the excise taxes on local Virginia cigarettes in the Internal Revenue Allotment of beneficiary provinces.

"It's true. We have claimed . . . (Ms Macapagal) is afraid so much of Chavit . . . (because) he might instigate her exit, too. Chavit himself claimed that (Macapagal) is scared of him," the governor said in Filipino.

Singson is known to have caused the end of the Estrada administration after accusing Former President Joseph Estrada, his former drinking and gambling buddy, of pocketing millions of pesos in tobacco tax allotments.

He claimed that the allocation of tobacco taxes was better off during Estrada's presidency, because tobacco shares were released equally among the four tobacco-growing provinces.

"But since Macapagal assumed power, it is only Ilocos Sur which has been getting its share. You can ask that from the Department of Budget and Management," he said. ***Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Landslide kills 5 in Sorsogon town

SORSOGON CITY—Five persons were killed while another one was seriously wounded after they were buried Thursday in a landslide that occurred while they were digging an earthfill in Barangay Tres Marias in Donsol, Sorsogon.

Police identified the casualty as Joseph Morada, Danilo Marqueses, Tirso Lovendino, Jose Macinas, Ramil Pertes, all residents of the barangay.

Injured was Tony Dagusuan of the same village.

Dagusuan was rushed to Donsol District Hospital for treatment and reported to be in stable condition.

P/Supt. Ramon Ranara, Investigation Chief of Sorsogon police said the victims were digging earthfill for an ongoing construction, owned by a certain Manuel Armedillas, when the accident happened around 2 p.m. ***Emir Gamis and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Body of seaman killed in Miami blast now home

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The remains of one of the six Filipino seamen killed in an explosion on a cruise ship in Miami, Florida last month arrived here yesterday.

The family of oiler Rene Villanueva fetched the sealed wooden box containing his body from the Iloilo City airport at about 6:30 a.m.

His body was taken to the family residence at Barangay Sentro Sur in Culasi town, north of the capital town of San Jose, Antique.

The remains of six Filipino crewmembers of SS Norway, including Villanueva's, arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport aboard a Northwest Airlines flight from the United States around 11 p.m. Thursday.

Villanueva, 28, was among the seven killed when the boiler of the 41-year-old SS Norway exploded last May 25, hurling debris and a blast of steam while the ship was docked at the Port of Miami. None of the more than 2,100 passengers was hurt.

The other fatalities were identified as assistant reefer engineer Mari John Bautista, 29; third engineer Ricardo Rosal, 50; stokers Ramil Bernal, 26; Candido Valenzuela, 50; Ramon Villarais, 39; and Winston Lewis, 53, of Jamaica. Most of them were scalded to death by high-pressure steam.

Five of the 15 injured crewmembers, were Filipinos, from the Norwegian Cruise Line vessel.

Azucena Hisole, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration director for Western Visayas, said the family of the fatalities received at least P120,000 as insurance compensation and to cover burial expenses.

Private schools offer rooms to public schools for fee

BAGUIO CITY—Private elementary schools, which have been losing vast numbers of pupils to free public education in the last 10 years, are now offering the government the use of their classrooms to decongest public schools.

Virgilio Bautista, Ph. D., president of the University of Baguio, said private elementary schools now account for only 8 percent of the country's elementary school population. Private schools used to cater to 20 percent of Filipino pupils, he said.

Private schools had been steadily losing pupils to public schools because "no school can match the zero tuition being offered by the government," he said.

"Against zero fees, private schools ask parents to pay as low as P6,000. This is what private schools have to confront today," he said.

But the idle private classrooms could be leased instead to public schools, which had been hard put to raise funds for the construction of new classrooms, Bautista said.

"It is pathetic to think that we have 75 students in one classroom. I used to joke that after a teacher starts her roll call, the school time would be over," he said.

"But it is costly for the government to build new schools. It will cost the government millions of pesos just to (raise) a school building."

Jeffrey Walsien of the Office of Civil Defense said the structural conditions of many of these classrooms might not be able to survive the cramping of pupils.

Walsien said the Department of Education might have to accept the fact that packing pupils into makeshift classrooms would simply endanger their lives.

In the Cordillera alone, the Department of Education announced a classroom shortage of 1,142, despite a projected enrolment increase of 1 percent this year, representing 220,873 new pupils.

Baguio high schools this year require 274 more classrooms to respond to a 1-percent increase in enrolment, said Julius Bangon, chief of the regional DepEd's secondary schools division.

Cordillera high schools, on the other hand, are confronting a shortage of 928 classrooms this school year.

Dr. Remedios Taguba, DepEd Cordillera supervisor for elementary schools, said Bautista's offer had actually been discussed during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

She said the option to rent other facilities had been cost-effective because the department's budget was only sufficient to pay teachers and subsidize the P200 required to finance a pupil's free elementary education.

But the offer was never pursued by the DepEd national office then, she said.

"The government cannot afford to build new schools. DepEd is now facing an even bigger problem of lawsuits because donated lands, where government schools stand, are now being reclaimed by the donors' heirs. The government has no land left (on which) to build its schools," Taguba said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

ROUNDUP

School principal held

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation here arrested on Tuesday the principal of an elementary school after he was allegedly caught sexually molesting a 12-year-old pupil in his office. Lawyer Norman Taloza, chief of the NBI district office here, said they have filed 20 counts of child abuse and acts of lasciviousness charges against the 57-year-old principal in Bagabag town. NBI agents caught the principal while he was molesting the naked boy in his office around 6 p.m. on Tuesday. According to the NBI, the boy's parents said their son had admitted that the principal started molesting him in December last year. The boy said the official would give him P50 or P100 after each sexual favor.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 dead in drowning

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Residents in Meycauayan and Hagonoy towns found two drowning victims in the towns' rivers, reports here said. In Meycauayan, police said residents recovered the body of a man, about 40 years old, from a river in Barangay Hulo on Wednesday. The body was taken to the Funeraria Gomez in that town. In Hagonoy, residents found the body of a boy, said to be between one and three years old, in a river in Barangay Wawa on Tuesday. Police said the victims could have drowned when floodwaters rose in the province due to heavy rains spawned by tropical storm "Chedeng" last week.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Thieves in college

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Thieves broke into an office at a state college on Monday and took away at least P28,000 from a vault, police said. At least two suspects entered the accounting office of the Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic College by sawing off a window's iron grills, police said. The suspects reportedly used rocks to destroy the steel vault that contained cash and checks that were part of teachers' unclaimed salaries. In April, robbers also broke into the same office and took away some P60,000 from one of the table drawers. *Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2,000 jobs created

LEGAZPI CITY—About 2,000 jobless persons in Albay and neighboring provinces were able to get jobs during a two-day jobs fair held here on May 26-27 as part of the Magayon festival. The Department of Labor and Employment in Bicol and the provincial government of Albay, through the Public Employment Services Office were able to invite 21 job recruiters, both for local and international employment.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug awareness

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment in Bicol launched the Drug Abuse - Free Workforce Program that aims to establish a drug-free working place in both government and private companies in Bicol. DOLE regional director Glenda Manalo said the program, which includes information dissemination, has made the employees and employers aware of the ill effects of drug and substance abuse in the workplace. Manalo declared 31 major establishments in Bicol, both private and government offices, as drug-free workplaces.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bridge project

LEGAZPI CITY—A P19.9-million bridge project in Polangui town will boost the economy of Albay, said Rep. Joey Salceda. The Quinale Bridge, which connects Polangui and Libon towns, would give access to the Pantao seaport, a project launched by President Macapagal-Arroyo in October last year. Engineer Godofredo Beltran, DPWH-V division chief, said the Quinale bridge project, which is almost completed, is funded by the United Kingdom Bridge Program.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Money from packs

LEGAZPI CITY—The appeal of Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisa Gozun to Bicolanos to turn wastes into useful items is receiving positive feedback, especially among local governments in Bicol, the DENR Bicol executive director said. In her recent visit here, Gozun encouraged Bicolanos to collect tetra packs and other beverage packs as these are being bought by the Kilus Foundation, an association of women in Pasig City that collects and buys materials like tetra packs, which are then used to make bags, slippers, purses, wallets, belts, and aprons. The group needs more than 50,000 empty packs each day for their reproduction.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Calamba jail bolt

CALAMBA CITY—Tension gripped this city as one of the three inmates who bolted out of jail was shot dead on Monday. Jail Inspector Emerson Armandy, Calamba jail warden, identified the escapees as Joey San Antonio, 27, a suspected small-time drug pusher; Ronald Allan Torres, 37, also held for drug peddling; and 35-year-old Rogelio David, detained for two counts of rape. San Antonio died of a bullet wound at the back of his body. Jail guards caught Torres just 50 meters away from the jail gate but they have yet to capture David. Police disclosed that right after JO1 Jonathan Formanes opened the prison cell to bring in the inmates' food ration for lunch, David pushed the jail officer on the floor and hurled a pot of hot water to his face. The suspects then immediately dashed out of prison. City police head Supt. Generoso Calderon said they would continue the manhunt for David. *Marlon Ramos and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Velez Osmeña; 92

MILAGROS Velez Osmeña viuda de Nerl passed away on Wednesday, June 4. She was 92. She is survived by her children Ramon, Jose, Corazon, Orlando, Amadeo, Carmelita, Esperanza, Felipe and Socorro. She will be interred at the Cosmopolitan Memorial on Capistrano St., Cagayan de Oro City.

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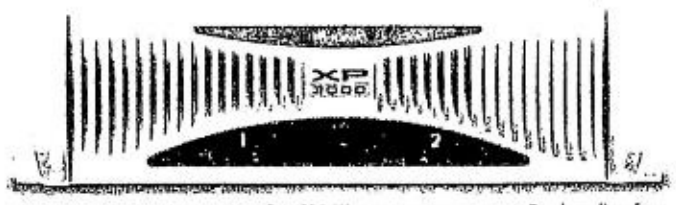

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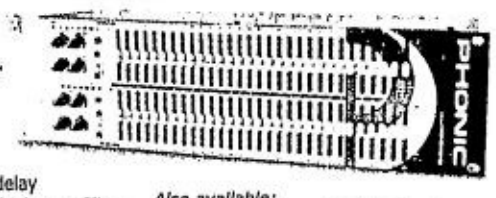

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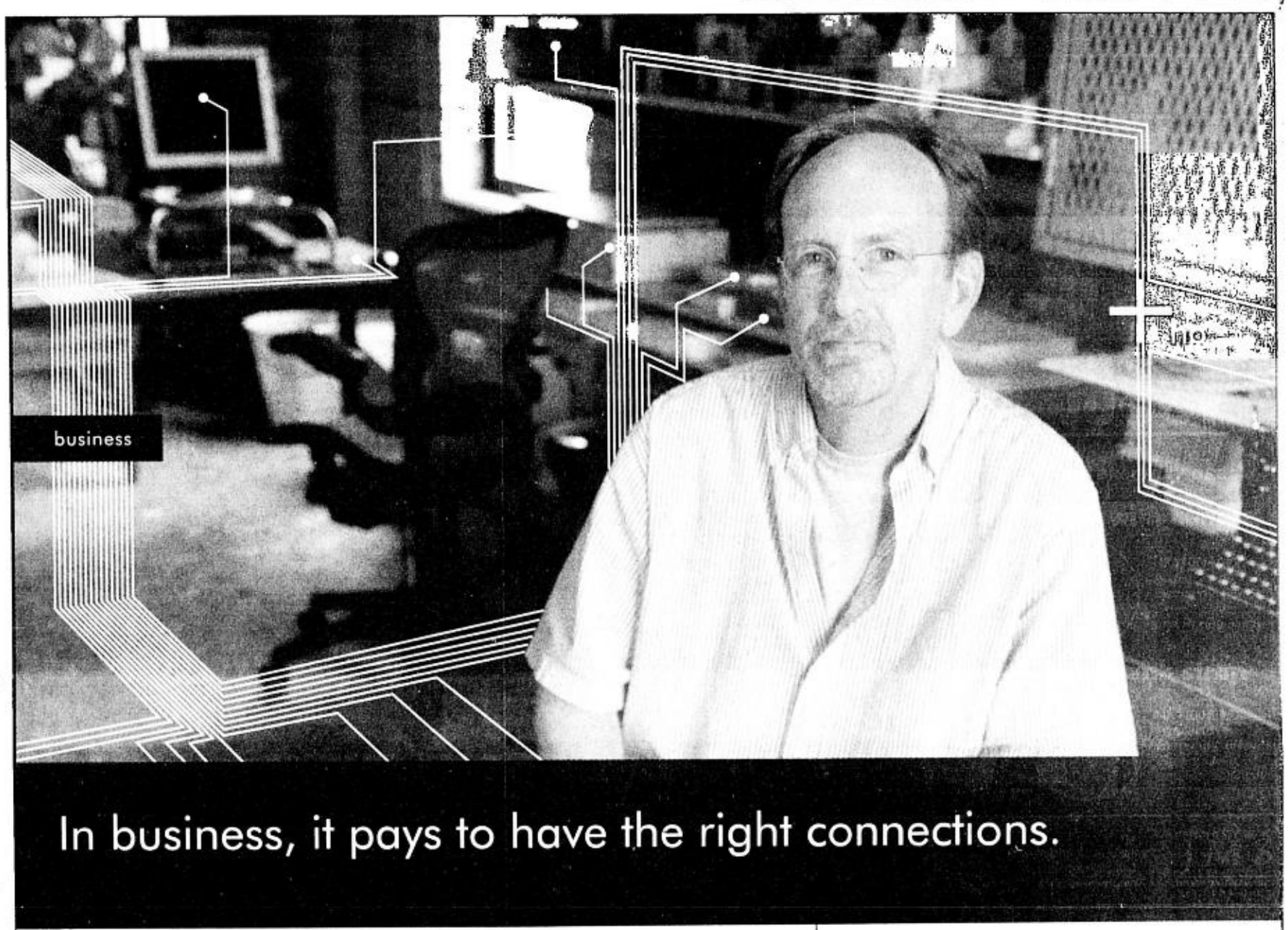

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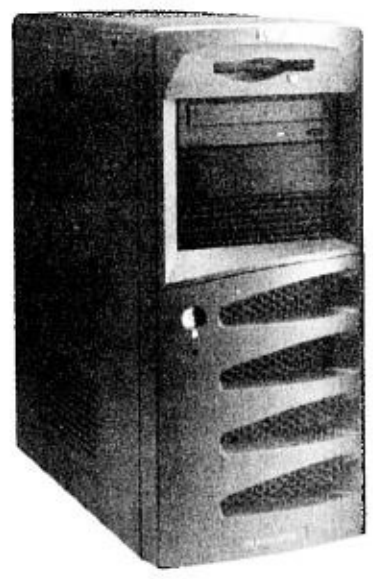

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INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Saving Biri's rock formations

Text and photos by Vicente S. Labro
Biri, Northern Samar

THE exotic rock formations of Biri, an island-town off the northern tip of Samar Island, have been a favorite place for picnickers. Boatloads of people go to the place, especially during summer when the weather is good and the sea is calm, to spend the day relishing the sight of fantastic rock formations and taking a dip in the cool turquoise blue water.

Because of their beauty and uniqueness, the rock formations also became the setting of some popular Filipino films. In the early 1990s, a romantic film starred by Richard Gomez and Dawn Zulueta went on location in Biri. Late last year, the area was again chosen as backdrop for an adventure horror-drama film starring the Streetboys, the "Spirit Warrior2: Shortcut."

Carved by thousands of years of strong winds, big waves, heavy rains, earthquakes and extreme temperature, the rock formations come in different shapes and sizes. Erosion indeed did a good job, as the place has become a panorama of natural majesty.

On one of the islets called Magasang, two huge, beautifully carved rocks, each about the size of a three-story building, stand separately on a wide flat rock. In the nearby islet of Bil-at can be found a big rock formation with a bat cave underneath.

Not far away, on Magsapad islet, is another rock formation with a peculiar shape.

Myth

Legends have it that an enchanted woman called Berbinota once ruled the place. It was from her that the town got its name.

Some Biri residents sometimes warn visitors not to make noise when in Magsapad for they might disturb the final resting place of the ancient goddess. If this warning is defied, this will earn the ire of the goddess and strong winds and big waves will suddenly appear.

But Berbinota is just a myth. In this place on a fine day, the waters gently lap against the eastern side of the rock formations. But when the weather is harsh, a seething sea, together with other elements, again try to carve a new shape into some parts of these seemingly formidable rocks.

Biri is located near the middle of the treacherous San Bernardino Strait, which separates the big islands of Luzon and Samar and where about 70 percent of the waters in the Visayas pass through on the way to or from the Pacific Ocean. Standing at the edge of the vast ocean, Biri has been at the mercy of strong storms that hit the place several times a year.

"If not for the rock formations, our place could have long been gone," says Mayor Jaime P. Garcia. The rock formations face the Pacific Ocean, protecting the main island of Biri.

The 63-year-old mayor explains that the weather-beaten rock mountains also protect the other islets and islands in the municipality from the onslaught of strong winds and big waves coming from the Pacific.

Biri, which is composed of 18 islands and islets with a total land area of 34 square kilometers, is a sixth-class municipality with an Internal Revenue Allotment share of only P12 million a year. It has eight barangays and a population of more than 9,000.

Fishing is the islanders' main livelihood, followed by copra making. The municipal hall, district hospital and the church are all located in the town proper.

People on the islands, the mayor asserts, are now very much conscious that preservation and protection of their natural resources will not only mean their survival from the harsh weather that continually batters Biri, but will also provide them with a means of livelihood.

Foreign-funded projects

The island town is fortunate enough to have been a beneficiary of some foreign-funded projects that aim to protect the environment and at the same time provide the people with livelihood opportunities. In fact, Garcia reveals, the municipal government is now undertaking the P14-million World Bank-funded Community-Based Resource Management Project.

The project includes a P3-million livelihood component that provides beneficiaries with equipment for deep-sea tuna fishing, such as boats and ring fish nets, and the P3.4-million fish sanctuary establishment component to be undertaken in all eight barangays.

It also has a P1.2-million natural resource management component, which covers mangrove reforestation and protection in six coastal villages, and survey and mapping, and human resource development components.

The mayor says portions of the funding are considered loans while some are grants. The municipal government has put up a 10-percent counterpart fund in the form of manpower and materials for the three-year project, which is to be completed by next year.

In 1997, Biri also received a foreign-funded project that was implemented by a nongovernment organization. The Small Grants Program of the United Nations Development Program allotted nearly $50,000 for the two-year Biri Island Coastal Marine Reserve Management and Development Project.

Through this project, seven barangays formulated a community-based resource management plan and set up three fish sanctuaries in response to threats of illegal fishing, uncontrolled coral reef extraction, cutting of mangroves, and lack of environmental awareness among the residents.

A 50-hectare mangrove area was established, women's organizations and community-based organizations were formed for livelihood and other purposes, and trainings on value formation, leadership and local governance, among other topics, were held.

Aside from these environment preservation projects, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has declared the coastal waters of Biri a seascape/landscape-protected area under the New Integrated Protected Areas Systems (Nipas) law, together with those of Lavezares, Rosario and San Jose towns in the mainland.

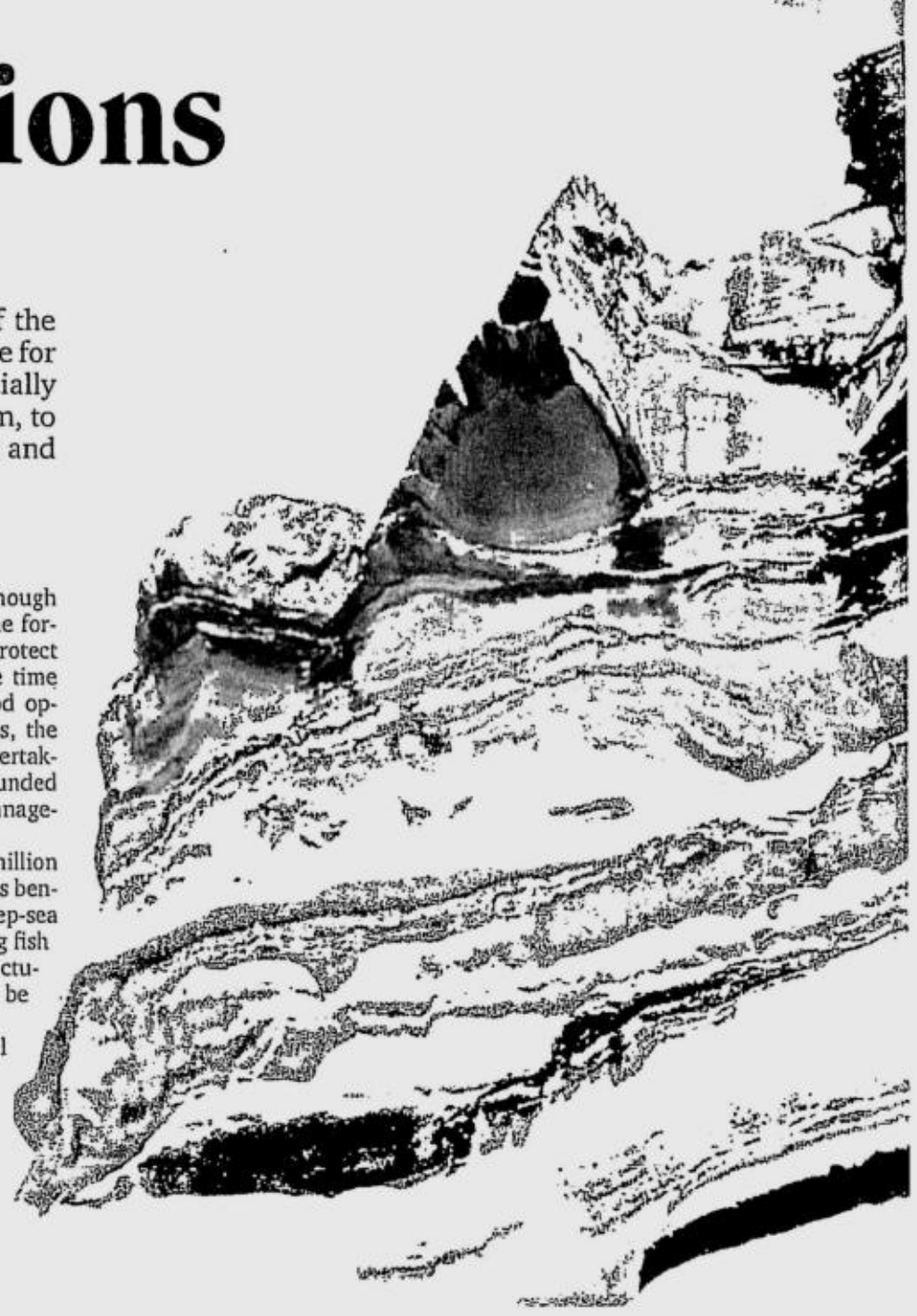
Garcia recalls that illegal fishing, particularly dynamite fishing, was once a perennial problem on the islands. But with political will, the mayor was able to curb the problem with the help of the police. He directed lawmen to conduct an intensified campaign against illegal fishing and arrest violators even if they were his relatives or political supporters.

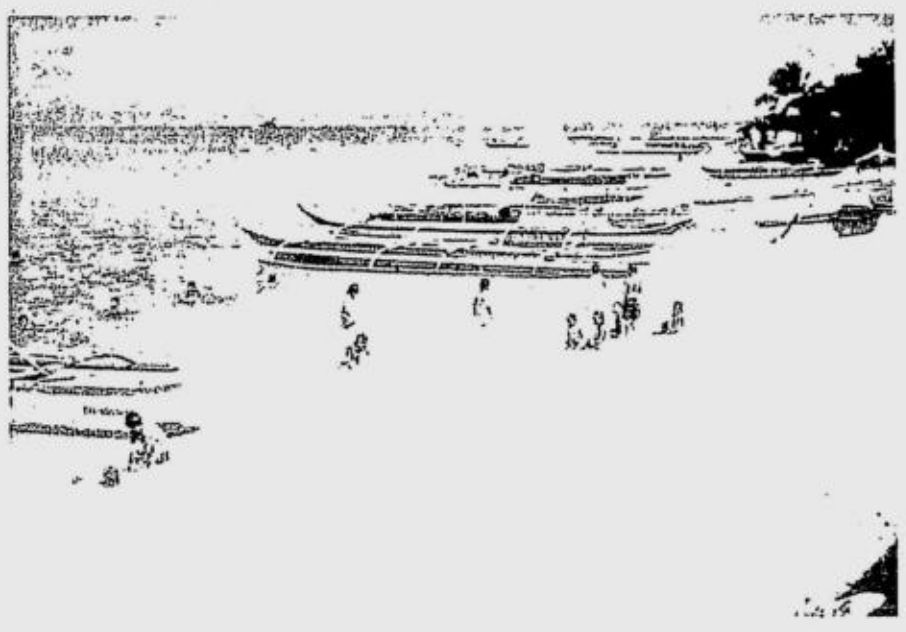
Because of the arrest and conviction of known dynamite fishers, the illegal activity stopped. "If ever there are illegal fishers still operating here, they come from other places," Garcia said.

'Foreign-funded' houses

Biri is a typical island town, with a stretch of white beach adorning the frontage of the town proper. The beach also serves as a playground for children who love to swim and make sand castles.

Motorized boats are the main interisland means of transportation, while in the town proper, several for-hire motorcycles are available for a ride or transport of goods to nearby villages.





WHITE seabirds hover in flight over one of the beautiful rock formations in Biri, Northern Samar (top). Children play on the long stretch of white sand beach and the clear waters in the town proper of the island municipality of Biri, Northern Samar (bottom).

What would catch one's eye in the town proper and the nearby village of Sto. Niño are the dozen big and beautifully designed houses, each costing about P1 million. These houses belong to women natives who married foreigners.

Garcia said that, since he was the school principal and the administrative officer of the district hospital, now, being the chief executive, he has stood as godfather for about 50 times in weddings between Biri women and male foreigners, who were either Japanese, Australian, German or American.

All of the women met their future husbands while working in Metro Manila, Pampanga or abroad. Some still work in those places, while others now live in their husbands' countries, leaving behind their houses in Biri to the care of parents or relatives. "But many of them usually come home for the fiesta or other important occasions like Christmas," the mayor says.

But the big houses, considered symbols of opulence, are very few compared to the number of houses on the islands, mostly thatch-roofed. Poverty is still a big problem, but the mayor hopes that they will overcome this in the near future.

Already, Biri is known for its delectable dried squid and fish, especially "*danggit*." Two groups of women are now into farming seaweed, which thrives well because of the clean, flowing sea waters.

According to the mayor, the clean waters also attracted a Japanese businessman to set up a pearl farm. The project, which is being managed by a Filipino, was started in 1998 and has provided jobs to 15 locals.

Hopes for tourism

Biri is also pinning its hopes on tourism to uplift the economic condition of the people. Aside from the rock formations, Biri boasts of beautiful reefs and coral gardens that include giant rose corals.

"We are very lucky because top officials in the province are very supportive of our environmental, livelihood and tourism projects," says Garcia, referring to Gov. Raul Daza and Rep. Harlin Abayon.

Abayon, for instance, recently authored a bill that would make Biri and the other island towns of Capul, San Antonio and San Vicente—collectively known as the Balicuatro Islands—an eco-tourism destination. Once the bill is approved, funding will be released for the development of eco-tourism in the area.

Daza has also made the Biri rock formations the province's main tourist destination, and he has personally been promoting the place.

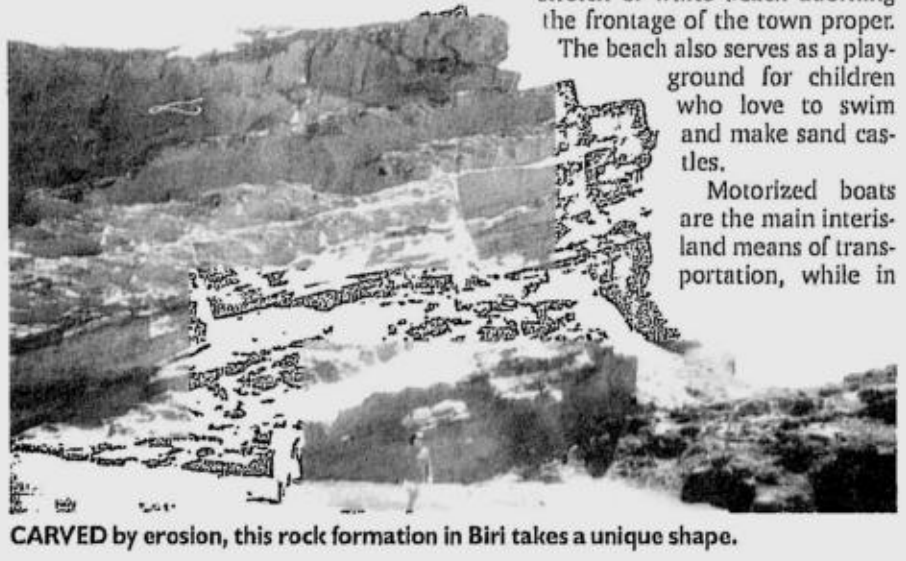
Garcia reveals that they plan to build a causeway from the main island to the islet housing the rock formations to provide tourists with easy access to the place. Several kiosks for picnickers will be established on the shore of the main island facing the Magasang Islet where the rock formations are.

"No structure will be erected on the islet with rock formations to preserve the place," he says.

Biri can be reached by sea from the town proper of Lavezares, which is nearly 40 km north of the capital town of Catarman in the mainland. From Lavezares, it takes about an hour of motorized boat ride to get to the town proper of Biri, passing a deep blue sea on this trip to the edge of the Pacific.

From the town proper, one takes a 10-minute motorcycle ride to a shore just across the islet of Magasang. In the absence of a causeway, one has to wade through 100 meters of knee-deep waters in a new mangrove plantation to reach the islet.

On the islet, one can enjoy the unforgettable sight of the Biri rock formations, either as an incurable romantic, an intrepid adventurer, or whatever the imagination will like one to be.



CARVED by erosion, this rock formation in Biri takes a unique shape.

Lonely, dangerous crusade

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

EDUARDO Gullas is a grizzled legislator who has survived many political vicissitudes for decades.

Administrations have come and gone, but Gullas, an aging but sturdy butterfly, is still a force in the slot.

Running fledgling Talisay City, however, is an entirely new ball game. As its chief executive, Gullas still has to establish his presence in police matters, like the drive to flush out gambling lords who have made his city their new business address.

It took one intrepid lady, Talisay Councilor Shirley Belleza, who pealed the alarm bells and dug in for a fight to the finish with illegal gambling operators and their protectors, to bring the problem to the attention of media and the public.

Her voice caught the attention of other people as well. Gunmen recently strafed the councilor's house, a warning no doubt. But instead of getting on her nerves, the attack seemed to toughen Belleza's resolve to go on with her anti-gambling advocacy.

It has been a lonely, dangerous crusade. The protectors, as a former city police chief bared, are no less than City Hall officials. When Belleza recently called for an official inquiry into the officer's revelation, her proposal was met with deafening silence.

Belleza's cause gained momentum when two policemen linked her colleague, Councilor Emil Go, to video *karera* operators. The policemen claimed they were thrown out of Talisay because they had been active, not just on paper, against illegal gambling.

Mayor Gullas has made the obligatory declaration of "all-out war" on gambling lords, but it remains to be seen whether the politician in him will push through with the assault when the dirty trail leads to the gates of his allies.

* * *

CIVIC JOURNALISM. The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) has introduced the concept of "civic journalism," which in a capsule means that reporters shouldn't only report on events but also get involved by offering solutions.

I don't know if doing government's job, in addition to their own, will raise the standard of journalism in these parts. But this is something new and promising. I've seen cases when a reporter steps out of the newsroom and actually makes a difference.

In a recent congressional hearing on the National Bureau of Investigation's mistaken ambush of resort workers in December last year, radioman Bobby Nalzaro volunteered to present video evidence to prove that contrary to the bureau's contention, it had used civilian agents in previous operations.

The popular GMA-Cebu broadcaster's testimony led to the suspension of the NBI regional director and the identification of some NBI assets who had allegedly fired upon the van-riding employees of Plantation Bay Mactan resort with wild abandon.

Several NBI officials, who have been dismissed from the service, and their assets are now also facing criminal charges of multiple frustrated murder.

That wasn't the only time the radioman went out on a limb to show he isn't all talk. Recently, he submitted to police a detailed sketch of the location of video *karera* machines in Cebu City and a list of their caretakers.

* * *

"EXTORTIONIST." It's the turn of Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Sen. John Osmeña to throw muck at each other.

When the senator recently called for the conversion of Visayan Electric Co. (Veco) into a cooperative, Tomas said his cousin had targeted the company for extortion.

"I smell something," Tomas said. Veco's franchise will expire in December.

Tomas also asked John to account for the P900 million allocated for the South Reclamation Project but diverted by John to fund a "coordinating council" shortly before the last elections.

"Not a single watershed was constructed," the mayor charged.

The senator retorted: "Tomas is the real extortionist. I can get pointers from him."

John pointed to the P35-million compromise deal Tomas had forged with Globe Telecom on the firm's unpaid franchise tax. He said the city mayor had lined up Smart and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Inc. as the next targets.

Their word war has distracted public attention from the real problem: An imminent increase in power rates.

'Nani can have any job he wants,' says GMA

From page A1

She did not say what Braganza's other options were, but said he could even assume "concurrent" positions.

The President said Braganza and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo have already talked about Braganza's return but she had yet to find out what the two officials agreed upon.

Rufino surprised

Last Thursday morning, a member of the delegation accompanying the President to Japan said Braganza was being groomed as presidential adviser for political affairs. If that were the case, then Braganza would be replacing Jose Ma. "Joey" Rufino.

But Rufino, when reached in Manila for comment, said the news was a surprise to him.

The source also said that Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod, a veteran newsman, will replace Braganza as press secretary.

Alingod is in charge of media operations for President Macapagal's two-nation swing to South Korea and Japan that started on June 2.

Upon Braganza's recommendation, he was named acting press chief when Braganza went on medical leave in April.

The source said the administration could not just drop Braganza, who has made "a lot of sacrifices" for the government.

Capco as press secretary

Although Braganza had cited health problems as his official reason when he had offered to resign, Malacañang insiders said the real reason was his bitter turf war with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

Sources had said Braganza and Tiglao once even figured in a shouting match in front of the President.

Last week, a Palace official, who had asked not to be identified, said Tiglao's deputy Roberto "Bobby" Capco was the front-runner among prospective appointees as press secretary.

Capco was press undersecretary when Braganza was appointed in January but moved out of the Office of the Press Secretary because of the Tiglao-Braganza turf war.

TIGLAO: The real reason?

BRAGANZA: Sure to come back

US withdraws forces from 2 Koreas' Demilitarized Zone

From page A1

done with close collaboration with our allies and friends, and many of those are in progress right now," he said without elaborating.

Many governments in the region consider Fargo's command of nearly 100,000 troops, headquartered in Hawaii but with a major forward presence in Japan and South Korea, as contributing to the stability of Asia.

Some press reports have suggested that the Pentagon planned to drastically cut the number of its forces based in Okinawa in southern Japan.

"I know you've all seen a number of stories in different newspapers, many of which in my view were way off the mark," Fargo said at a joint news conference with Philippine Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

No timetable was set for the two-phase, multi-year pullback but the two sides agreed the South Korean government would begin procuring land for the move next year.

"The consolidation will take a number of years and proceed in two phases," said a joint statement released after a meeting in Seoul between US and South Korean officials.

Main force affected

The main force affected by the move is the US Army's 2nd Infantry Division, about 15,000 troops now scattered among dozens of camps and bases near the DMZ separating the two Koreas.

The 2nd Infantry Division would be moved south of the Han River, which bisects the South Korean capital of Seoul. The main US Army headquarters would also move from its current location in the heart of Seoul "at an early date."

Another 5,000 troops from the Seoul-based headquarters of the US Forces Korea also would be consolidated and moved south under the plan.

US ground forces have been deployed as a trip wire along the zone since the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War, ensuring that an invasion from the north would immediately draw the United States into the conflict.

Outmoded defense

But US strategists now believe that visible sign of US commitment to the defense of South Korea is outmoded, and argue that in an age of high-tech warfare, any loss of "boots on the ground" will be more than made up for by sophisticated weapons.

As part of the agreement, the United States pledged to invest $11 billion over the next four years in some 150 "enhancements to the combined defense," the statement said.

Enhancing deterrence

Gen. Leon Laporte, the US commander in Korea, this week said examples included Patriot missile defenses to protect Korea against North Korea's estimated 600 Scud missiles, a light-armored Stryker brigade that could be rapidly airlifted by C-17s to reinforce the peninsula in a crisis, and high-speed vessels that could swiftly carry in Marine reinforcements from Okinawa.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Monday in Seoul after meeting with South Korean leaders that "the purpose of these changes is to enhance deterrence, not to weaken it.

"Our commitment to the defense of Korea remains firm," he said.

Military analysts say a North Korean invasion of the south would be defeated by US and South Korean forces but at a cost of hundreds of thousands of casualties because Seoul is so near the DMZ.

The classic response would be for US forces to fall back south of the Han river, regroup and then push north through Seoul.

"The essence of what we're trying to do is to make sure that the forces we have here on the peninsula can respond quickly and immediately, even before reinforcements arrive," Wolfowitz said.

"And I think the ability to do so is something that will not only strengthen deterrence, but save lives in the horrible event that a war should occur."

Changes since 9/11

In Manila during their press conference yesterday, Fargo and Abaya acknowledged "the reality of a changed security environment since Sept. 11, 2001," in a joint statement, adding that "new and emerging security challenges will require innovative, flexible and cooperative approaches to mutual security."

Fargo said this Pacific command review and the redeployment in the Korean peninsula recognized a new security environment following the end of the Cold War and the increased threat of international terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington. *AFP, Reuters*

Males demanding . . .

From page A1

more demanding than girls," said Dimitrios Trichopoulos, a professor of epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health and a co-author of the study.

The study appears to partly explain why newborn boys are heavier than girls and suggests that signals between the fetus and the mother drive the appetite during pregnancy.

Boys are usually born about 100 grams heavier than girls.

The study by researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, is the first to examine whether that difference could be due to the mother eating more.

Males more vulnerable

Researchers monitored the dietary intake of 244 pregnant women who attended prenatal checks at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. None of the women knew the gender of the child they were carrying until it was born.

The researchers believe that women carrying boys eat more because male embryos have a higher energy requirement.

"In general, male embryos are much more vulnerable than female embryos. Fetal mortality is higher among male embryos," Trichopoulos said in a phone interview from Athens.

"In situations of famine, you would expect boys to be more vulnerable because they have higher requirements, so they will be the first ones to pay the price . . . but the last thing that happens when there is a famine is to keep statistics, so we don't know that for sure."

Chemical communication

The study's findings suggest there is a chemical communication between mother and fetus so that males can grow faster than females, with the mother being signaled to eat more to enable that growth, said Kent Thornburg, a fetal physiologist at Oregon Health Sciences University who was not involved in the study.

But although they produce bigger babies, mothers of boys do not put on more weight than other women during pregnancy.

And the findings do not necessarily mean that boys are heavier solely because their mothers eat more.

"That would lead to the conclusion that the more a pregnant woman eats the bigger her baby will be and that female babies would be larger if only their mothers ate more," Thornburg said.

"A more realistic hypothesis is that fetuses stimulate the appetite in their mothers in proportion to their requirement for optimal growth." *Reuters, AP, AFP*

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Gloria now smiles, cool when asked about 2004

From page A1

that US President George W. Bush, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun had encouraged Ms Macapagal to reconsider her decision not to run in the 2004 election.

It was also on Thursday that she met with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who, according to two sources, likewise expressed his wish for her to continue in office.

"Let's not look for ways to inject politics [into issues]," Ms Macapagal said when asked whether a continuity of her administration could be expected.

"I am not going to be distracted," she also said.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who arrived late for the cocktails, excitedly told the President that television networks in Manila had aired early evening news on Sin's statement that he indeed encouraged her to run.

"I haven't seen the statement, so I don't want to react to something they said he said," the President said in response.

It was Gordon who had informed reporters in Seoul that Roh told Ms Macapagal he would invest in Philippine stocks on his retirement in 2008 if she was still the President.

And it was a highly placed source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, who said Bush and Sin had encouraged Ms Macapagal to seek election next year.

Something different

On Thursday morning when the advisory for evening cocktails was made, reporters told the same source of their apprehension that the President might again blow her top because of the day's published news.

The source told reporters they should expect something different from her this time around.

Indeed, a member of the media delegation noted after the cocktails: "*Ang lamig ngayon ni Presidente* (The President seems cool today)."

Before Ms Macapagal arrived for the cocktails, the talk at the presidential suite of the Imperial Hotel where she was billeted was centered on the vibrant trading in the stock market last Thursday.

"Trading was heavy, and this was apparently because traders welcome reports that world leaders want GMA to stay [in office]," the source said.

Busy volunteers

In Baguio City, the grassroots campaign volunteers who helped Ms Macapagal win the vice presidency in 1998 are busy at work despite her insistence that she is no longer interested in the 2004 presidential race.

The Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA) has been assigned to raise her satisfaction rating. But Carlos Honorio Estepa, KGMA coordinator for the Cordillera, said its new mandate did not mean that Ms Macapagal had reversed her decision not to run.

"The KGMA has not received any information that [she is running]," Estepa said. "It will be her decision, and the KGMA will always support whatever she decides to do. No member of the KGMA will presume to second-guess her. But should she run, we are ready to [campaign for her]."

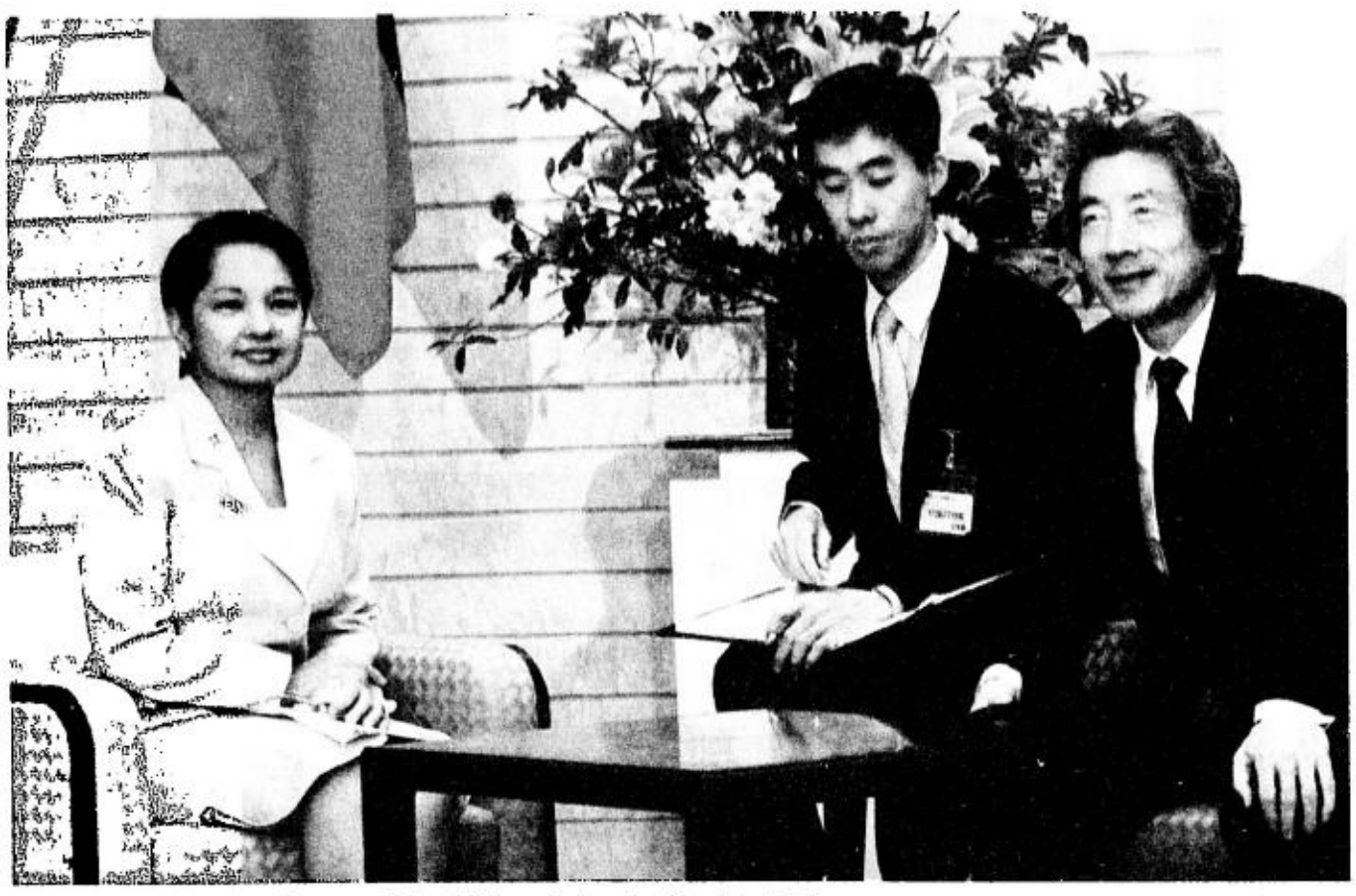
Estepa, who is also the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's vice president for Northern Luzon, said the KGMA had "always been active."

'Local conduits'

"But instead of campaign volunteers, we are now local conduits between grassroots groups and officials focused on poverty alleviation," he said. "We want to make sure [the President's] satisfaction rating on this score is high because it makes a difference to investors."

Recent surveys have noted a dramatic plunge in how people perceive the President's political and economic decisions.

"It's been very bad, and if [Ms Macapagal's ratings are bad], it will look awful to foreign investors. We need to get them into the system," Estepa said. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



THE PRESIDENT calls on Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi at his office in Tokyo. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

COURTESY call on the President at the Imperial Hotel of Marubeni executives led by its CEO Tohru Tsuji. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Magsaysay, Flavier not running in 2004 race if . . .

From page A1

longer keen on running for president because of the lack of support from his party.

"It's different when you are seeking the presidency. Some of the big people in the party are not supporting my bid," he said.

Flavier admitted that the big and established names in politics were still calling the shots as far as the choice of candidates was concerned.

Commenting on some world leaders' supposed encouragement for Ms Macapagal to run again, Sen. Ralph Recto said her advisers should be reminded that she would be judged based on her local performance, and not on the accolades from foreigners that had come her way.

"Global appeal is good, but local clamor is better," Recto said.

He also noted that those who were discouraging Ms Macapagal from running were afraid that their candidates would have a "formidable foe" should she indeed change her mind.

"When it comes to presidential political plans, the Palace is leaking like the Titanic," Recto said. "The fact that she has not castigated those who are floating the stories gives one the impression that she is interested in how the public is reacting to those leaks."

85 now

The "leaks" notwithstanding, Congress ended its session the other day with 85 congressmen urging the President to run.

The 85 endorsed a letter to Ms Macapagal written by Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez asking her to reconsider her decision not to seek election in 2004.

Gonzalez said he sent his letter yesterday to Malacañang and a copy to Lakas headquarters in Makati City. The letter and the copy are now in the presidential legislative liaison office headed by Gabriel Claudio and the Lakas national secretariat office headed by Jose Ma. Rufino.

"[The congressmen] told me they really wanted her to run when they signed the letter," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

He said it was during the Lakas caucus Monday night that he and some party mates started to talk about the possibility of convincing Ms Macapagal to run.

He expressed the belief that the congressmen were "just looking for someone to initiate" the effort.

Gonzalez began to circulate his letter in the House on Tuesday until Thursday night.

He said it was his fellow congressmen who told him they wanted to sign it.

Gonzalez had earlier targeted 100 signatures. But he decided to get as many as he could with Congress adjourning its session.

According to Gonzalez, the letter signed by "congressmen with constituencies" shows that many people want a Macapagal candidacy in 2004.

"They wouldn't sign it if they don't know the sentiments of their constituents," he said.

Gonzalez said Speaker Jose de Venecia asked him Thursday night about his signature campaign and how it was progressing. He said De Venecia described the letter as an "important document."

'Patriotic act'

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said he was one of the first to sign Gonzalez's letter.

Puentevella said he believed that Ms Macapagal should run because of her good performance in the past two years as well as her recent achievements, such as her recent state visit to the United States.

"I saw the total respect given her and how she was able to restore the dignity of Filipinos there," said Puentevella, who was part of the President's party.

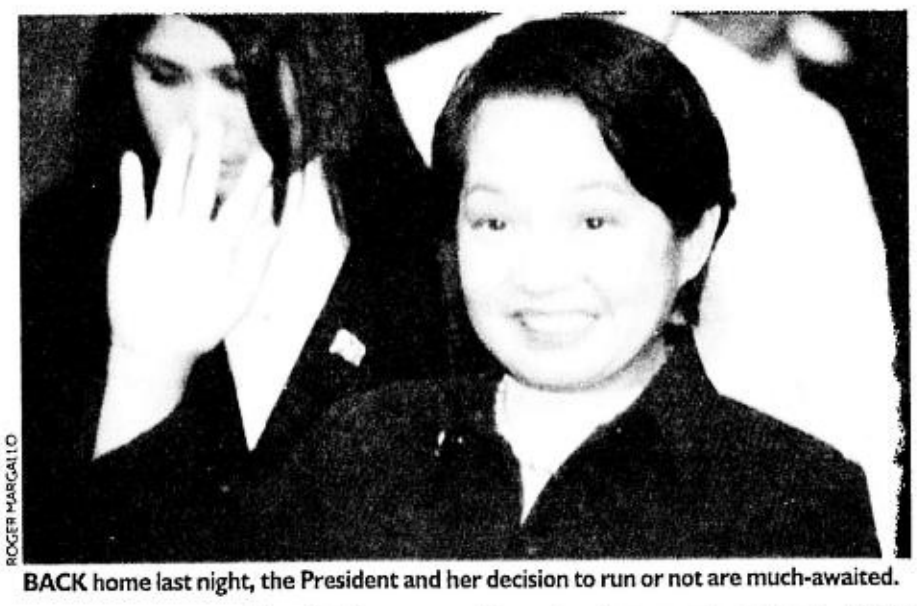
He said he would respect whatever decision Ms Macapagal would make for 2004, but stressed that it would be a "patriotic act" on her part if she decided to run.

But in the opinion of Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Gonzalez's signature drive in the House, as well as the supposed encouragement for Ms Macapagal to run, was part of the "script" of her allies to "justify" her going back on her earlier decision.

"While US President George W. Bush would consider her an effective ally, it doesn't mean that she is serving the national interest," Padilla said in an interview.

He also said he did not think that Ms Macapagal's allies would implement the "script" without signals to that effect from her.

"Deep inside, she wants to run, but would rather wait for people to make these moves so it would not look like it was not spontaneous," he added.



ROGER MARGALLO

BACK home last night, the President and her decision to run or not are much-awaited.

No endorsement

Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said it did not know where a Malacañang official got the information that most of the CBCP members want the President to run in 2004.

"Our position as a body is that we cannot endorse any political candidate," Coronel told reporters. "We are discouraging even Catholic groups of lay people from endorsing a set of candidates. The CBCP does not make a political endorsement."

But Coronel admitted that members of the Church had "personal preferences."

"They vote according to their conscience, not as a body," he said.

Coronel was reacting to a statement by Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on ecclesiastical and media affairs, that most of the CBCP bishops wanted the President to run and would support her if she changed her mind.

"I don't have any idea where he got his statement. We will try to learn the context of his statement," Coronel said.

He said the matter did not even crop up during the recent plenary session of the CBCP.

According to Coronel, the President had not wholly sided with the Church in all issues.

He recalled that in the matter of the death penalty, she had taken a pro-life stand, but in matters of peace in Mindanao, "we are expecting more efforts of peace."

In Malacañang, Limcaoco refused to name the bishops he had referred to.

But he insisted on his statement Thursday that most members of the CBCP wanted Ms Macapagal to run.

"My sense is that other bishops share [Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's] sentiments, but let's not go into head-counting," he said in an interview.

Sin earlier said he had encouraged Ms Macapagal to run, but did not give her an endorsement.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former CBCP president, had denied Limcaoco's claim and dared him to name the bishops he cited.

Limcaoco refused to take the bait.

He said he respected Cruz's opinion, but said the CBCP was a collegial body made up of independent bishops.

"Perhaps you should ask them what their individual sentiments are," he said.

'Exploitation'

The militant group Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) wants Limcaoco to "stop exploiting the Church for GMA's political gimmicks."

It said in a statement that it shared Archbishop Cruz's view that Ms Macapagal's supposed lack of a word of honor would make her unworthy of the people's trust.

"GMA is totally unworthy of the presidency, whether at present and beyond 2004," the PCPR said. "The Filipino masses should not be deceived by someone who has reneged on her promises to bring down the cost of electricity, education and other basic services, alleviate poverty, fight corruption and bring about all-out peace." *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Palace press corps bets GMA running

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IS SHE or isn't she?

In the spirit of fun, reporters who cover Malacañang and who get to be up close and personal with President Macapagal-Arroyo are betting on whether she will run next year despite her public denials.

So far, most of the bets ranging from P100 to P500 are for "yes, she will run."

The betting began after the INQUIRER ran a story two weeks ago to the effect that the President's successful state visit to the United States was being seen as cause for her to reconsider her decision not to seek election in 2004.

A couple of reporters bet against each other, and the betting quickly picked up.

"The dominant question being asked today is not about SARS or terrorism. It's 'Is she or isn't she?'" said Sammy Julian of Panay News.

Of the 13 reporters who placed their bets, 10 say "yes." They believe that the President will go back on her word.

Two reporters each bet P500 on "yes," saying they never believed her Dec. 30 declaration, anyway.

One reporter who bet P100 on "yes" said her initial position was "no." But she has changed her mind since the "clamor" for the President's running began.

"I just feel that she will run," said another reporter.

Yet another said Ms Macapagal was just waiting for a public clamor for her to run. "She's been going around. It can't be for nothing," he said.

But three reporters insist that it's a "no."

One of them, who bet P300, said Ms Macapagal could be sorely tempted to run but would be prevented from doing so by her Dec. 30 announcement.

Ms Macapagal's own aides are wary of giving their personal opinions, knowing her temperament.

Chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, whom she once described as someone who could second-guess her, refused to say if he personally wanted her to run.

Conrado Limcaoco, adviser on ecclesiastical and media affairs, said he would support whatever her decision might be. He forgot that she had already made a decision not to run.

Joey Rufino, adviser on political affairs, admitted that he was among those in the Cabinet "unhappy" with that decision. But he said only the President could decide the issue.

Only Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye was candid.

Asked what he would advise his boss, he said: "I agree with the position [she has taken]. Because of her decision [not to run], she can make decisions that are unpopular but correct, without worrying about the political consequences."

Gov't to resume MILF peace talks when ...

From page A1

ment and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for several years.

Gonzales also told reporters the other day that he and MILF vice chair Ibrahim Murad talked by phone "two days ago" (that is, Tuesday, a day after the MILF's unilateral ceasefire took effect) to discuss the resumption of talks.

"Malaysia is arranging the venue," said Gonzales, who was present when Ms Macapagal and Mahathir talked before the two leaders addressed a symposium on Asia's future.

Asked if there were any preconditions for the resumption of talks, Gonzales said: "None." Murad is the chief negotiator of the MILF.

But in Lanao del Norte yesterday, soldiers clashed anew with rebels, in the third outbreak of violence since the MILF's 10-day unilateral ceasefire started on Monday.

Capt. Gregorio Geocallo, civil military officer of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based in Iligan City, said the encounter occurred in Barangay Liningding in Munai town.

Geocallo said an undetermined number of rebels were either killed or wounded while the government suffered no casualties.

More evacuees expected

In Cagayan de Oro City, Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the military's punitive action against the perpetrators of the April 24 Maigo attack was continuing.

Balaoing said the military operation was moving toward Mt. Gurain in Lanao del Sur.

He said a number of rebels have died since Thursday but the military could not determine the exact number of fatalities on the MILF side.

He said MILF rebels led by Yahyah Lucsadatu, the highest-ranking rebel leader in the Lanao provinces, and Abdurahman Macapaar alias Commander Bravo, have taken refuge in Mt. Gurain.

The military has subjected the mountain to aerial and artillery bombardment.

"Don't be surprised if there will be more evacuees in Lanao Sur these coming days," Balaoing said, as he acknowledged that the operation could affect civilian areas.

He said it would be best if civilians leave their villages.

As the operation was going on, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said a power outage hit the cities of Davao, Tagum and Digos in Southeastern Mindanao and the cities of General Santos and Cotabato in Southwestern Mindanao at around 9:55 a.m. yesterday.

Engr. Lito Manlawe, OIC for Transco Mindanao Operations and Maintenance, said the power outage was caused by a line fault that forced the shutdown of Agus I, Pulangi 4, Power Barges 117 and 118 power plants.

Manlawe said it was possible the fault was caused by sabotage.

"We're still doing analysis on the cause of the disturbance," he said.

Conditions met?

Asked about the condition she herself had set for the peace talks to resume, that the MILF renounce terrorism, the President said the rebel leadership had already done so.

As for those who carried out the raids and bombings, President Macapagal said they continue to be the targets of punitive military operations.

The Palace has been careful in previous statements to say that the military operations were not aimed at the entire MILF but only against those involved in terrorist attacks.

US as broker

In the Senate, administration Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday asked the President to consider the request of the MILF that the United States broker the peace talks.

Barbers said both the government and the MILF must be open to suggestions from each other as well as from other concerned sectors for the sake of attaining peace in Mindanao.

He stressed that Malacañang should capitalize on the MILF request as long as it will not jeopardize or threaten the country's political stability and national security.

"The US government has been very helpful to our country and they want to provide a significant contribution to our quest for peace with the Moro rebels," Barbers said.

"Now that the MILF rebels themselves are sending signs of enthusiasm to settle the hostility through the intercession of the US government as the broker, I don't see anything wrong in welcoming their suggestion," he added.

Sympathy attacks

In Veruela, Agusan del Sur, heavily armed communist rebels on Thursday morning ambushed a convoy of military vehicles carrying an army official.

Three soldiers were wounded in the incident that took place in Barangay Sampagulta.

But Col. Juanito Cabayao, commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade based in Prosperidad town, said Lt. Col. Oscar Solano, chief of the 28th Infantry Battalion, was not harmed in the ambush.

"Only three of his men were wounded but they managed to fight back," Cabayao said in a phone interview.

Cabayao said Solano left his command outpost in Trento, also in Agusan del Sur, to inspect military and paramilitary detachments and patrol bases in secluded villages of the said town when about 40 rebels fired on his convoy.

Cabayao said the ambush was part of the New People's Army's sympathy attacks aimed at diverting the military's attention from its operations against the MILF in Northern Mindanao.

"We have anticipated such attacks with our victory against the MILF," Cabayao added. *With reports from Christine Ortega, Grace Albasin, Jeffrey Maningo and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Cynthia Balana*

Last Sipadan hostage free after three years

From page A1

military officials said yesterday.

"Roland Ullah is now under military custody," said Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

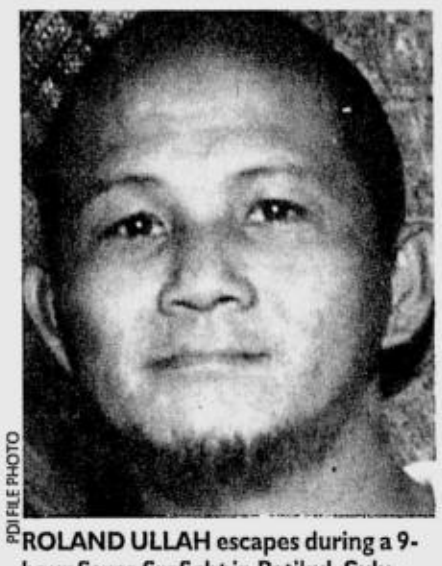
His physical condition was not known, though officials said the former hostage was being debriefed by the military.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of a military-police task force pursuing the Abu Sayyaf, said Ullah was with an Abu Sayyaf unit which clashed with the Armed Forces near Patikul, Jolo, on Wednesday.

Ullah escaped during the nine-hour encounter in Mt. Bagsak, Patikul.

Joyce, Ullah's wife, said she hoped the news was true.

"If I see him alive, I would be very happy," she said.



PDI FILE PHOTO

ROLAND ULLAH escapes during a 9-hour fierce firefight in Patikul, Sulu.

"I'LL be very happy to see him," says Ullah's wife, Joy, shown in this file photo with son Raffy. The Ullahs have two other sons.

Hiding place

After the firefight, Ullah hid in the mountain until 9 a.m. the following day, said a military official who requested anonymity. He then walked to Barangay Taung, Talipao, and went to the house of Councilor Abraham Jaddi to ask how he could reach Jolo.

Jaddi, the military official said, asked help from other people in the village and then called Patikul Vice Mayor Esmond Suhuri.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said Ullah was in the custody of Joint Task Force Comet.

In the Wednesday firefight, a Marine was killed and 11 other persons wounded.

Treatment unclear

Neither Salazar nor Tolentino would say whether Ullah was being treated as an ex-hostage or if he was under arrest.

The military appeared initially reluctant to talk about the case.

The military source who requested anonymity said he did not know all the circumstances behind the hostage's freedom.

"You can try asking Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino," he said.

The INQUIRER initially succeeded in contacting Tolentino but the signal was cut before he could answer queries. Soon after, he was rejected his calls.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko also rejected several attempts by the INQUIRER to get his comments on Ullah's reported release because he was allegedly in the middle of a very important meeting.

The military had previously said that Ullah had joined the bandit group because he did not try to escape even when there were opportunities for him to do so.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, when he was still Southcom chief, told reporters it was unlikely that Ullah was being held hostage.

"He could have escaped but he did not do it. We are more inclined to believe he joined the Abu Sayyaf," Abaya said then.

Jehovah's Witnesses

But the Jehovah's Witnesses preachers who spent time with the diving instructor after they were kidnapped in downtown Jolo on Aug. 21, 2002, refuted the military's suspicions.

Emily Mantic and Cleofe Montulo told reporters after their escape on Good Friday that the bandits were forcing Ullah to do errands.

In May, Florida Montulo and Nori Bendijo said the bandits were also forcing Ullah to carry firearms and ammunition.

"If he was one of them, why is it that he is being tied during nighttime?" Florida asked.

Ullah was working as a dive instructor with the Borneo Divers Club in Sipadan when he was abducted by the Abu Sayyaf.

Forgotten hostage

The captives—mostly Western tourists—were taken by boat across the sea border to Jolo, where they were held for nearly a year before all but Ullah were released in several batches in exchange for millions of dollars in ransom.

Ullah became the forgotten hostage after the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped a second group of tourists, this time from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001.

Ullah lived in Jolo as a child but eventually worked in Malaysia. His wife was pregnant at the time of his abduction.

Ullah is a Philippine passport holder but was granted a Malaysian work permit. He was originally included in the release of the last three Malaysians on Aug. 18, 2000 but was abducted again by the group led by Radulan Sahiron. *With reports from Martin Marfil and AFP*

House approves bill on dual citizenship ...

From page A1

Leader Carlos Padilla said yesterday.

Padilla led the opposition Thursday night in trying to block passage of HB 2730. He accused the majority of not giving three minority members, including himself, the chance to interpellate.

The House ended interpellations after Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina made a motion to end floor deliberations.

Padilla said he opposed the motion and accused the majority of trying to "gag the opposition."

"I told the majority that we are being held hostage by the Senate, simply because Drilon wants the bill to be passed immediately," he said in a phone interview.

Citing his sources, Padilla said Drilon told the House leadership that the Senate would freeze the lower chamber's local measures if it did not pass the dual citizenship bill.

"Why are we being cajoled and intimidated by the Senate? What's the House leadership doing?" he said, and pointed out that the Senate leadership's supposed behavior was a "violation of the long held tradition of interchamber courtesy."

Loida Nicolas-Lewis

He also said he wanted to know if the bill was being rushed for approval because a friend of Drilon's had wanted it passed immediately. He did not elaborate.

Two sources said Filipino-American businesswoman Loida Nicolas-Lewis, a law classmate of Drilon's at the University of the Philippines, had been pushing for the bill's passage. One of the sources said Lewis asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to help ensure Congress approval of the bill during the latter's state visit to the United States last month.

Drilon, however, denied that he had pressured the House into passing the measure.

"There are allegations that I entered into a *quid pro quo* arrangement with the Speaker [Jose de Venecia] that we will pass the local bills [of the House] in exchange for the passage of this measure," he said at a press conference.

No exchange deal

He said it was "grossly unfair and misplaced" to claim that the passage of the bill in both chambers was an "exchange deal."

"The Speaker ... and an overwhelming number of (congressmen) recognize the validity of the Dual Citizenship Bill [as something that will] benefit our country," he said.

Reacting to the accusation that he wanted the measure passed to benefit a friend, Drilon said: "That is absolutely not true."

Tribute

Drilon said the bill's passage in the House was a recognition of the vital contribution of overseas Filipinos to the Philippine economy.

"Like the absentee voting bill, the dual citizenship bill is another tribute we offer to the members of the overseas Filipino community whose contribution to keeping the economy afloat through the years is highly appreciated," he said.

Drilon said the bill's passage was "long overdue" and "an affirmation of the fact that the vast majority of our erstwhile countrymen remain Filipinos in their heart and mind."

Since the bill automatically restores Filipino citizenship to those who have renounced it, it will stir among former citizens heightened interest in Philippine political, social and economic affairs, Drilon said.

Once a Filipino ...

It will then boost investments and domestic tourism, he added.

In a statement, De Venecia said the House rose to "the great challenge of history" with its approval of the dual citizenship bill.

"The bottom line is: Once a Filipino, always a Filipino," he said, adding that 89 countries were now allowing dual citizenships.

In his message to the House, the Speaker said 30 percent of the seven million overseas Filipinos who live in the United States and Canada were contributing 70 percent of the total $8 billion annual remittances of Filipinos abroad.

But Padilla said he did not believe Filipino expatriates would rush back to the country to invest in view of the peace and order problem and the poor infrastructure.

He said the minority would take its case to the Supreme Court when the President signs the measure into law.

He also said granting dual citizenship to Filipino expatriates would constitute a violation of Article 4 Section 5 of the Constitution, which holds "dual allegiance as inimical to national interest."

Benefit of the doubt

But in the opinion of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, dual allegiance as stated in the Constitution is not synonymous to or compatible with dual citizenship.

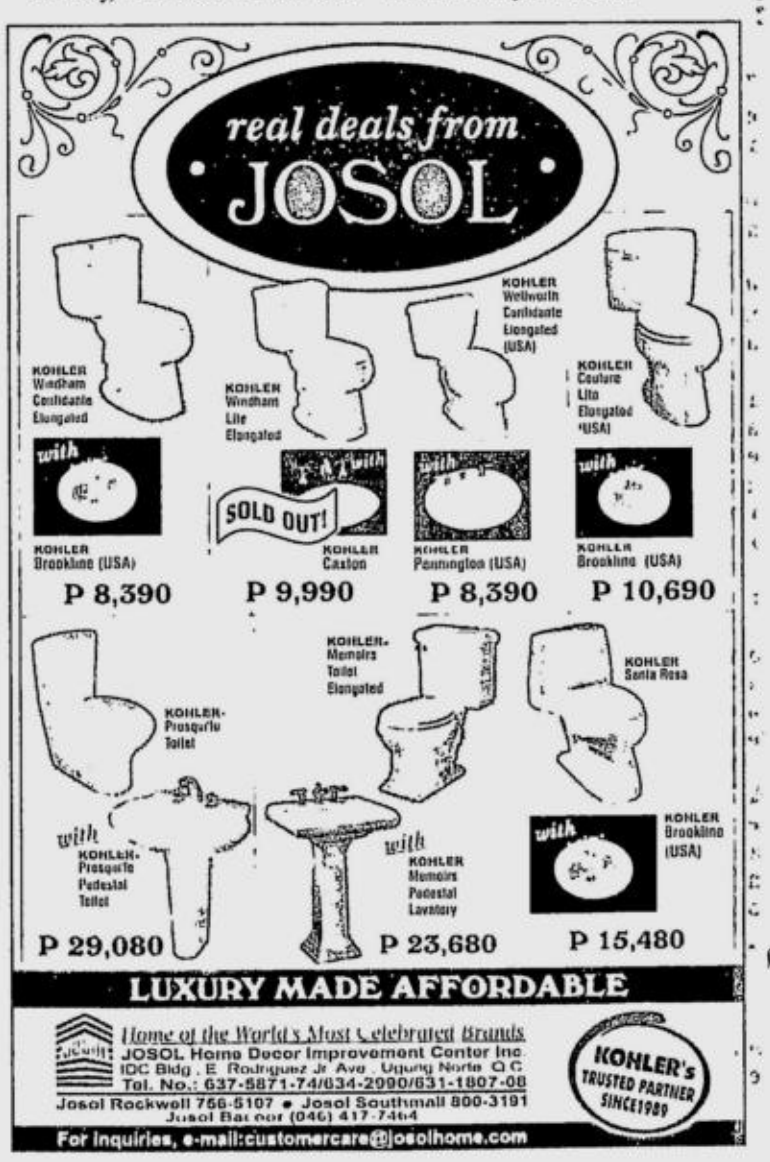
"Even without dual citizenship, you can have a situation where there is dual allegiance," Gonzalez said by way of stressing the need for legislators to "give some benefit of the doubt to our Filipino expatriates."

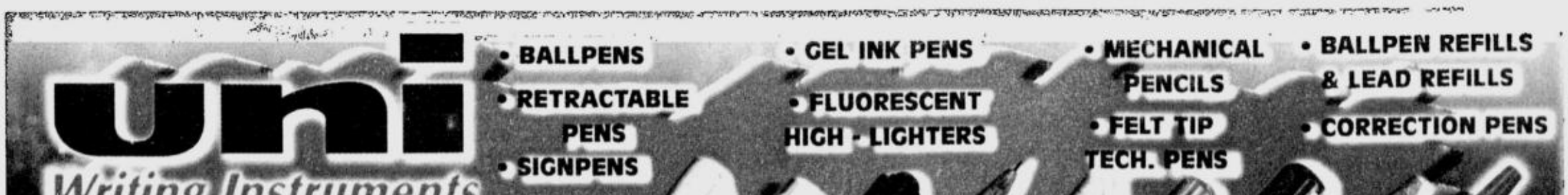
Majority Leader Gonzales added that citizenship was a "state of fact"—"for instance, you and I are born Filipinos"—and allegiance was a "state of mind."

Both men said the minority had the prerogative to question the measure.

They also contended that the minority had enough time to deliberate on the bill, and that the majority bloc had to act when a motion to end the deliberations was eventually made.

Aside from the minority bloc, the others who voted against the bill were Representatives Benigno Aquino III and Ruben Torres.





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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Drug testing drags down cops' morale

By Luige del Puerto

THE MANDATORY drug test for all Metro Manila policemen has dragged down the morale of Manila cops, according to SP02 Virgo Villareal, vice president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association.

"Why are we being obliged to undergo this?" Villareal asked. "There are (only a) few addicts among us. And everyone knows who they are. They should be the only ones (subjected to a drug test)."

Villareal was reacting to reports that Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, has ordered some 17,000 Metro Manila policemen to submit themselves to drug tests.

What hurts the most is that the policemen themselves will have to shoulder the P300 drug test cost, Villareal told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"*Saan na naman kami kukuha niyan* (Where will we get the money)?" Villareal said.

He added that high-ranking cops do not need to order a mandatory drug testing to find out who among the policemen are hooked on drugs.

"*Kalat naman parati iyan* (Drug-use is rampant all the time)," Villareal said. "The officials know them. Why not round them up for mandatory drug testing?"

He said the police officers he had talked to had a reason to feel bad about the latest move of the PNP leadership.

Villareal said most of the policemen feel they are being singled out.

"We are being set up as sacrificial lambs again," he said.

Velasco earlier said that mandatory drug test for police officers is needed to earn the citizens' trust.

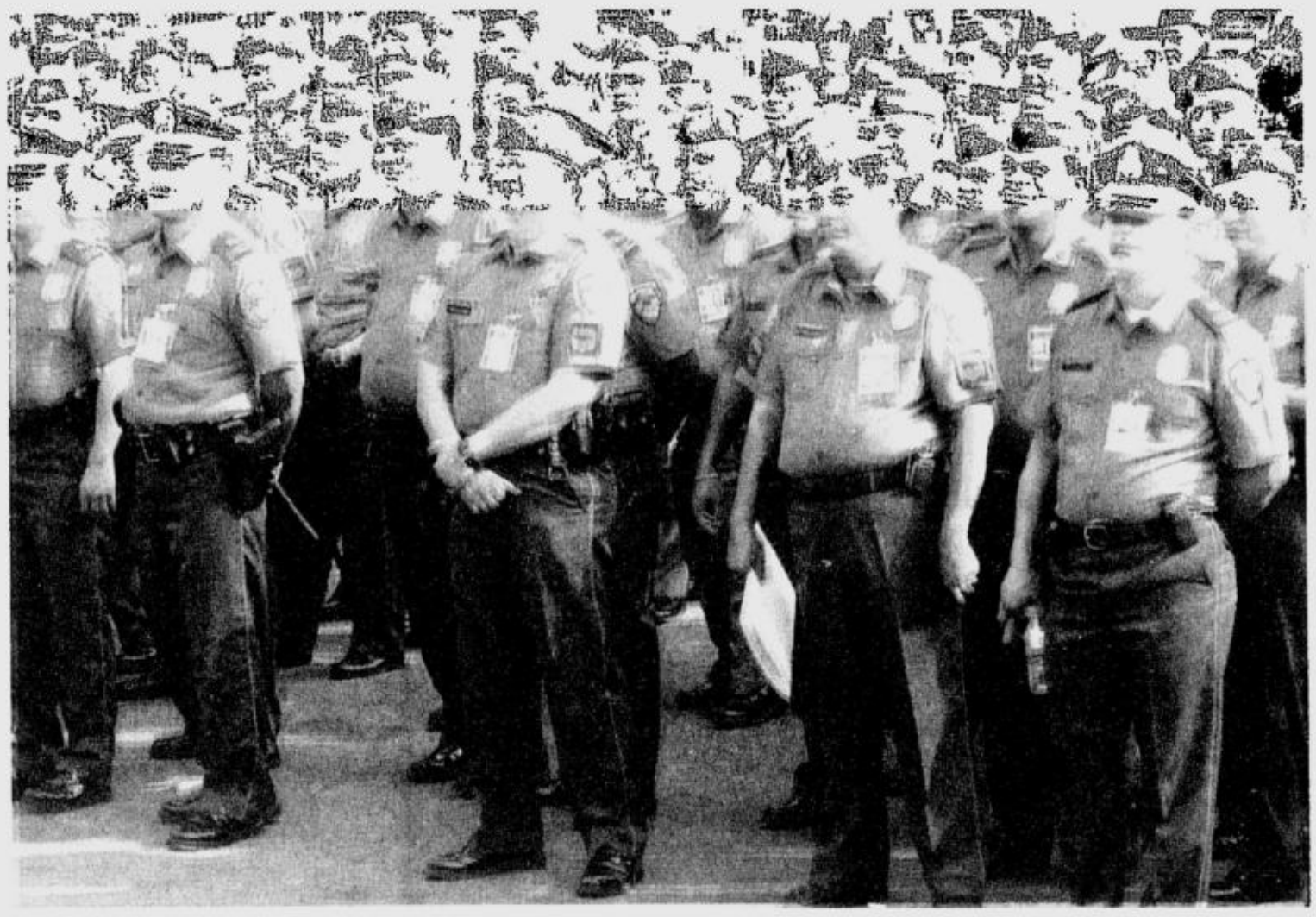
He said the police must cleanse its ranks and identify those who are part of the illegal trade.

Velasco has warned that policemen who refuse to take the drug test will face dismissal. He issued the warning to members of the five police districts in Metro Manila.

Velasco said the policemen must take the drug test to set an example to the citizenry in line with the government's drive against illegal drugs.

Velasco and other high ranking officials of the NCRPO had submitted themselves to drug testing last Wednesday.

Mandatory drug test is a provision in the new Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, or Republic Act 9165.



MEMBERS of Manila's Finest are now described to be at their lowest after they were told that they would have to undergo drug testing to win back the citizens' trust. ERIK ARAZAS

Flasher shoots pair for giving him tongue-lashing in Makati

By Leila Salaverria

LEONARDO Morillo yesterday was hauled to jail for allegedly shooting two pedestrians, one of whom gave the suspect a tongue-lashing for allegedly showing his genitals.

Police said Herald Danao, 33, an employee of a non-government organization, and Abigail Catalan, 28, a talent supplier, were walking on Batangas Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati at 3:05 a.m. yesterday when they passed by Morillo, a 42-year-old inspector of Famous Security Agency, who was urinating on a wall with his back turned to them.

The complainants said Morillo then turned around and showed his private parts.

Police said a disgusted Danao then scolded Morillo for exhibiting his genitals and then walked away.

Morillo apparently got upset after the scolding and began hurling stones at the victims.

Later, driver William Arbiz joined Morillo, who also took out his gun and fired on the fleeing Danao and Catalan. Fortunately, Morillo missed.

Police said that when Morillo ran out of ammunition, he threw the gun at the complainants.

The victims were slightly injured from the stoning, police said.

Danao and Catalan next sought assistance from the police, who arrested Morillo and Arbiz.

The two suspects chose to remain silent when police questioned them.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

LATE SPORTS

Duremdes fires 42 as SLR wins

By June Navarro

NELSON Asaytono was the last homegrown player to score 40 points almost five seasons ago.

Kenneth Duremdes surpassed that feat last night by pumping in a career-high 42 points as Sta. Lucia Realty pulled off a methodical 106-87 rout of the FedEx Express in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Philsports Arena.

Duremdes showed he deserved the MVP award of the recent All-Star game as the 1998 league MVP made 15 of 22 shots on the floor. He scored 18 points alone in the third quarter as the Realtors took a 78-61 lead.

The SLR forward converted the buzzer-beating lay up that lifted the Governors' selection past the heavily favored Commissioner's squad during the All-Star game but FedEx's Vergel Meneses was chosen as All-Star MVP.

"Vergel's my friend. But in fairness to Kenneth, there should be two MVPs in that game," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua. "He just proved something tonight."

Danny Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros muffed what looked like easy baskets down the stretch as San Miguel Beer allowed Alaska to escape with a 91-86 victory in the second game.

Scores:

Sta. Lucia 106—Duremdes 42, Aquino 21, Mendoza 19, Espino 17,Francisco 5, Ong 2, Bat-og 0, Yu 0, Webb 0, Tan 0, Adriano 0.

FedEx 87—Arboleda 20, Codinera 15, Ritualo 12, Meneses 11, Yap 8, Ortiguera 6, De Ocampo 6, Ejercito 4, Rodriguez 2, Billiones 2, Ferriols 1.

Quarters: 24-18, 45-42, 78-61, 106-87.

More Sports on A23-A29

Korean nabbed for hitting own baby in the face

By Leila Salaverria

A 53-YEAR-OLD Korean was arrested in Makati Thursday night for slapping his nine-month-old son.

Charity Bino told police that she saw her husband, Chris Bae Chuc Yu, hit the face of their son inside their house on Filmore Street in Barangay Palanan, Makati.

Horrified, Bino called the police to arrest her husband and spare the boy from further harm.

Investigators said the blow to the boy's face was so hard that the suspect's hand left marks on his cheek.

After the incident, Bino took the baby to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment, police said. The baby boy suffered no other injuries.

Bino told police that her husband uses drugs, which could be the reason why he hurt their young child.

Bae is now detained at the Makati Police Headquarters.

Police said the baby is now with his mother.

Olive Bar gunman identified

By Leila Salaverria

THE POLICE are now hunting down the suspect in Thursday's drive-by shooting in front of the Olive Bar in Makati City that left one person dead.

Investigators yesterday said the suspect, whose name is being withheld, is now in hiding.

They added that the suspect had been positively identified by a witness who personally knew the gunman and saw him holding a weapon.

According to the witness, he was standing about a meter away from the maroon Honda CRV (WPD-506) that the gunman was riding in. The gunman opened fire on Emiliano Familar and Arthur Alvin Aguilar, who had been outside the Olive Bar saying goodbye to friends, police said.

Familar was killed in the ambush, while Aguilar was wounded.

The witness said he saw the gunman's face and told police that he knew him because the two of them had been introduced by a common friend sometime before.

He added that he knew of the feud involving Aguilar and the suspect.

Aguilar's wife earlier told police that her husband had been receiving death threats from an enemy.

The gunman used a long firearm, whose nozzle jutted out of the vehicle's window.

The suspect was seated at the back passenger seat of the CRV, the witness told police. The CRV had three passengers in all, he added.

MM mayors to bar fun centers in key areas

By Christian Esguerra

METRO Manila mayors yesterday promised to tighten the noose on amusement centers operating near schools, churches and in residential areas.

These establishments would eventually be closed once local governments have implemented a comprehensive zoning policy for the metropolis, said Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

Dubbed the Comprehensive Land Use Program, the plan will classify areas into residential, commercial, and industrial zones.

"(This means) you won't wake up suddenly with a motel or a nightclub right beside your house," the mayor said.

Trinidad, spokesperson of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, made the assurance a day after Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman scolded mayors for tolerating amusement joints.

"We're not really tolerating them," Trinidad said. "They're engaged in legitimate business."

"Times are hard for business. Until the CLUP is approved, we'll grant permits to amusement centers unless their violations are blatant."

LUCY Diaz (foreground) holds up a picture of her son Randy on the day she learned that his body has been recovered from a pipeline in Quezon City. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Officials mull over closure of water line where Randy's body was found

By Amy Remo

AFTER recovering the remains of Randy Diaz last Wednesday, officials of Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) and Manila Water Sewerage System (MWSS) are now considering closing the 3.4-kilomer pipeline where the body was lodged.

The pipeline, which runs from Barangay Pansol to the old San Juan reservoir, had been decommissioned shortly after Diaz fell in an air ventilation chamber last May 17.

The valves were shut and the water was diverted to other lines to isolate the 1.5-meter wide pipeline.

According to Eduardo Santos, MWSS chief regulator, water officials are faced with two options: completely decommission the pipe or recondition it for future use.

Santos said they are currently conducting a physical investigation of the whole pipeline.

"We have already inspected the inner condition of 1.2 kilometers of the pipeline and it looks good, Santos said. "We have yet to inspect the remaining 2.2 kilometers to decide whether or not use the pipe again."

He said it would take a while before the pipe can be used again.

Ranulfo Habaluyas, MWCI media relations manager, said that although using the pipe again is a good idea, the budget for the pipeline rehabilitation can run up to millions.

"First of all, we have to seal the holes in the pipe, which were drilled to be the entry points for the Coast Guard divers," Habaluyas said. "We are also in the process of securing vents, including the shaft where Diaz fell."

Philippine Coast Guard divers assisted water officials in retrieving the body of Diaz, 19.

Santos said that the pipeline is very old. He said it has been in operation for roughly 60 years.

He said there was also a need to reline the whole pipe.

Also, if the pipe were to be used, they would have to clean it by flushing water in and out of the pipe through its blowoffs.

Blowoffs are structures located in the lower parts of the pipe where water can flow. MWSS would have to fully disinfect the pipe using a high chlorine solution.

Officials would make up their minds as to what to do with the pipe as soon as they have completed their investigation of the remaining 2.2 kilometers of pipeline.

METROBRIEFS

4 quizzed over hijack

WESTERN Police District operatives yesterday invited four people for questioning in connection with last weekend's hijacking of medicines worth P2.5 million in Manila. Questioned were Walther Beasa, 36, of Capas St., Binondo; Noel de Jesus of Zabala St., Tondo; and two others identified only as Natividad Hernandez and Sheila Tayag. The four who are suspected of acting as "agents" for the disposal of the loot, were brought to the WPD headquarters following police operations that led to the recovery of P300,000 worth of medicines, which were part of the stolen shipment. The alleged mastermind, a certain Emong, and the driver of the truck, Wilfredo Laum, 38, are still at large. *Luige del Puerto*

Fire hits Tan warehouse

FIRE damaged a warehouse of Fortune Tobacco Corp. in Marikina City yesterday morning. Arson investigators said the fire started about 6:20 a.m. inside the warehouse along Champaca Street, Barangay Parang, and was placed under control four hours and 20 minutes later. PO3 Marienella Santiago of the Marikina City police, said the cause of the fire was still under investigation. Fortune is owned by business tycoon Lucio Tan. *Nelson Flores*

Student's death a mystery

A 19-YEAR-OLD student was found dead yesterday morning under mysterious circumstances at his sister's house in Quezon City. Investigator SPO1 Fedencio Basibas of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said the body of Carlo Manansala was found by his sister, Catherine, inside her house at 3-C Kapiligan St., Barangay Doña Imelda. Catherine was about to wake him up when she found him lying lifeless in bed. Investigators said Manansala had a head wound and bruises all over his body. *Alcuin Papa*

Police patrol stops break-in

STEPPED up patrols by Western Police District personnel preempted a robbery at a computer store in Manila and resulted in the arrest of two suspects before dawn yesterday. WPD Detective Rodolfo de los Reyes said policemen on patrol chanced upon three men breaking into the Earthlink Computer Shop in Sampaloc around 1:30 a.m. The suspects managed to drive off in a Nissan Vannette (TMC 978) and a running gun battle ensued. Police cornered the suspects along Jose Abad Santos St. in Tondo and arrested Reynaldo Gloria, 55, and Virgilio Losa, 46, both of Tondo. A third suspect, Ronaldo Castro, escaped. Seized from them were two .38 caliber revolvers, a bolt cutter and a pair of pliers. *Luige del Puerto*

NFA denies notebook story

NATIONAL Food Authority National Capital Region Director Jose Cordero yesterday denied the allegation of rice retailers in Malabon City that the agency was forcing them to buy notebooks with a picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo on the cover in exchange for their rice allocation. "We don't force them to buy the notebooks if they don't want to. We will still give them rice supply regardless of whether they purchased notebooks from us. It is not compulsory," Cordero stressed in a phone interview. He said the sale of the notebooks was a project of the administration. It was being implemented on the instruction of the President herself to enable consumers to buy cheaper notebooks in time for the school opening. *Tina Santos*

Victim's kin ask: Where's Macalalag?

By TJ Burgonio

THE FAMILY of a barangay official who was murdered allegedly on orders of Lumban, Laguna Mayor Reynato Macalalag in 1995 yesterday pressed the police to present the suspect to the public to prove that he had indeed surrendered.

Rosalina de Guzman, common-law wife of slain barangay tanod Alberto Quiatzon, wondered why the police had not shown Macalalag even to the media.

She was referring to the practice of the PNP of presenting suspects to newsmen.

"If he had indeed surrendered, how come he has not been presented to the media? We'll never know the truth unless he is presented," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The Crusade Against Violence (CAV) had been making inquiries with the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group about Macalalag, but no one could tell his whereabouts, according to De Guzman.

"If he has surrendered, he's supposed to be in jail. It appears that he's still being coddled by powerful men. Perhaps his reported surrender was just a gimmick so we would stop looking for him," she said.

De Guzman traveled from Sta. Cruz, Laguna to Manila on Thursday to follow up on reports that Macalalag had turned himself in.

Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson, confirmed that Macalalag was detained in Camp Crame but said the mayor could not be presented yet because he was suffering from high blood pressure.

Macalalag turned himself in to the police on Monday after the Manila regional trial court cancelled the bail earlier granted him and issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with the killing of Quiatzon, an ally of a political rival, on Nov. 20, 1995.

RUNWAY BLOWOUT. Airport personnel examine one of the seven tires of a Saudi Airlines 747-400 that burst after landing at the Manila International Airport yesterday morning. None of the aircraft's 444 passengers and crew were hurt in the incident. ROGER MARGALLO

Saudi plane blows 7 tires on landing

By Norman Bordadora

SEVEN of the 18 tires on a Saudi Airlines plane from Jeddah burst on touchdown at the Manila International Airport (MIA) yesterday morning.

The incident caused the Boeing 747-400 to stall on Runway 24 and prompted a 45-minute delay that kept four arriving airliners from their scheduled landing.

Saudi flight SV-870, carrying 423 passengers and 21 crew members, touched down at the MIA at 9:55 a.m., and almost immediately tires one, three, six, eight, nine, 14 and 16 blew up.

Witnesses saw a series of explosions as the tires burst.

"This is the first time that seven tires blew up in one incident," said Manila International Airport Administration operations chief Octavio Lina.

"No injury resulted from the incident. The Air Transportation Office is looking into the matter," he added.

Debris was scattered on the runway and airport management had to close the runway for almost an hour, from 10:02 a.m. to 10:48 a.m.

China Airlines flight CI-631 from Taiwan was diverted to Cebu City as a result of the incident.

The landing of China Airlines CI0637, also from Taiwan, Cathay Airlines CX-901 from Hong Kong and Korean Airlines KE621 from Seoul were all delayed by an hour.

The Saudi plane had to be towed to Gate 15 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport arrival area before maintenance personnel could change its tires.

With a report from AP

Ginebra assures public of its product's safety

THE COMPANY that makes the gin brand Ginebra San Miguel yesterday assured consumers that its products pass through rigid quality control and processes that ensure the safety of their product.

Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSM Inc.) issued the assurance following reports that eight persons have been killed after drinking liquor of questionable origin.

The company in a statement said, "(Our) products are manufactured based on a tradition of quality and innovation that dates back hundreds of years."

GSM Inc. advises consumers to buy Ginebra only from authorized outlets and distributors and to make sure that the brand's "seal-o-brand" is intact.

It said Ginebra has grown from its modest beginnings to become the largest-selling gin in the world.

Victims to blame for increase in human trafficking, says NBI

By Luige del Puerto

HUMAN trafficking has spread unchecked in the country and National Bureau of Investigation officials are blaming the victims themselves for failing to pursue the prosecution of their cases in court.

Atty. Ricardo Diaz, head of the NBI's Interpol division, said that most of the victims are simply not interested in pursuing their cases, opting instead to settle with the offenders out-of-court.

"The victims get paid, and they stop pursuing the cases," Diaz said. "This is one of our problems."

He said he feared that this would ultimately lead to more cases of human trafficking.

"Because victims can be paid, there is a ready exit for abusers," he said.

Only 4,700 out of 7,000 cases of human trafficking since 1996 have been recommended for prosecution.

Many more cases out of the 4,700 were dropped because the victims simply wanted out.

Diaz said the problem is economics.

"Majority of the victims were willing victims," Diaz said. "They fell (into the trap) because they really wanted to (leave their homes) in the first place. They hoped to earn more outside the country."

The NBI on Thursday briefed United Nations official Paul Williams about the problem of human trafficking in the Philippines.

Diaz said Williams would be visiting other line agencies that enforce anti-human trafficking laws.

Based on NBI statistics, there has been a steady increase in the number of cases of human trafficking in the past six years.

NBI data showed that the agency had received a total of 1,672 human trafficking cases in 2002—more than half the cases reported six years ago.

QC enacts ordinance to fight SARS spread

By Amy Remo

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., yesterday signed an ordinance aimed at curbing the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the city.

The Anti-SARS Ordinance of Quezon City will seek to prevent, contain and restrict the possibility of its spread, provide mandatory quarantine for suspected SARS victims and to impose sanctions for its violators.

An anti-SARS task force, which is chaired by the mayor and co-chaired by Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista, was also created to ensure the implementation of these measures.

In the ordinance, those exposed to or suspected to have SARS will be required to be quarantined for not less than 14 days. There is a provision on voluntary home confinement.

Isolation, however, will be required of a person confirmed to have SARS.

Other measures include an information campaign drive in schools and communities to increase SARS awareness among residents.

Owner jeep links cop's son to theft

THE SON of the head of the anti-carnapping unit of the Caloocan Police yesterday was dragged in a case of attempted car theft in Tondo, Manila, after his owner jeep was tagged as the getaway vehicle.

The Western Police District's Anti-Carnapping division said the suspects had used an owner jeep registered to Ritchie Esguerra in the attempted theft of the car of businesswoman Hedeliza Arandia, 44.

Esguerra is the son of Caloocan City Police Insp. Ramon Esguerra, head of the local police anti-carnapping unit.

Esguerra's jeep figured in the investigation following the arrest of barangay tanod Angelito Torralba and primary suspect Joselito Primavera, 33, of Dandan St., Tondo, said SPO2 Rodolfo Miranda.

Luige del Puerto

Larry Francia, 75

HILARIO S. Francia, poet and painter, died in his sleep on Wednesday at the age of 75.

Francia, a respected authority on art and a confidante of the late National Artist for Literature Jose Garcia Villa, was cremated on Thursday.

His ashes will be interred at the crypt of the Pinaglabanan Church in San Juan after the 10 a.m. Mass today.

Revilla is not a land-grabber

FORMER Sen. Raul Roco, a presidential aspirant, dismisses the prodding of two foreign presidents—George Bush of the US and Roh Moo-hyun—on President Macapagal-Arroyo to change her mind and run in 2004.

Roco says Bush and Roh are not voters in the Philippines and, therefore, not in a position to endorse a candidacy.

Roco's statement is a non sequitur. The conclusion does not logically follow from its premise.

* * *

The irrelevant statement betrays the former senator and education secretary's worry that soon enough he'll be overtaken by the President in the ratings game.

No matter how much Roco makes *pa-pogi* points with the citizenry, he will see himself down in the ratings.

After all, what has he done for the country recently?

* * *

Roco should face up to the reality that the citizenry judges its elective officials based on their performance in current times.

GMA's successful state visit to the United States, as well as those to South Korea and Malaysia, is imprinted on people's consciousness. They will show their appreciation for the President in the next survey.

The only thing going against GMA is whether the citizenry will still trust her if she goes back on her word that she wouldn't run.

* * *

For making that call on the citizenry to reinstate him in Malacañang because he is the legitimate president, Joseph "Erap" Estrada deserved that juvenile taunting from a Palace official: If that were so, how come he was not invited by President Bush to make a state visit to the United States?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's like asking a stupid question and getting a stupid answer.

Can't we get serious even for a minute?

* * *

I'm no fan of Sen. Ramon Revilla, who got elected by the stupid electorate for his role in the movie "Nardong Putik," but I don't agree that he's a land-grabber.

For how could he steal land that he owns?

Revilla bought the pieces of property in question in the 1970s and 1990s.

* * *

Is Revilla committing a crime for wanting to develop the agricultural land that he owns into a subdivision or something else?

I gathered from sources that Revilla and the occupants of the land could not agree on how much the senator should pay them for vacating the property.

Revilla has every right to claim the property from the occupants of his land.

* * *

No matter how long the occupants of the land in question have been living on the property, they can't claim ownership of the property.

The long period of time they have stayed on the property does not make them its owners.

Squatters should be reminded that somebody else's property they've been occupying can never be theirs even if they were born there.

* * *

Heard from the grapevine:

Former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has signified his intention to run for governor of Batangas.

And you know who his campaign manager is? Dismissed Prisons Director Ricardo Macala!

A man shows his character by the company he keeps. I wonder if Perez knows this.

* * *

Congratulations to businessman Antonio Cabangon Chua on his being confirmed ambassador to Laos by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

A very friendly and helpful guy, Cabangon Chua deserves the position more than anybody else.

* * *

There was a discordant note, however, on Cabangon Chua's breezing through the Commission on Appointments.

His former employee at Philippine Graphic tried to block his confirmation. The former employee said he had been unjustly deprived of P5 million due him upon his separation from the news magazine.

Cabangon Chua, however, showed photocopies of a check and a quit-claim document signed by the former employee himself proving that he had accepted separation pay.

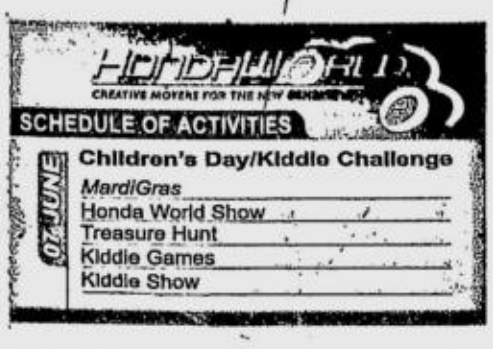
* * *

Getting back at his former employee, the businessman said that the night before the hearing Wednesday, the fellow called him up in the dead of night threatening to testify against him during the confirmation hearing.

Cabangon Chua said the guy demanded P5 million in exchange for his silence.

But the Commission on Appointments dismissed the guy's complaint and gave a nod to Cabangon Chua's confirmation.

GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE...
FOR LESS!



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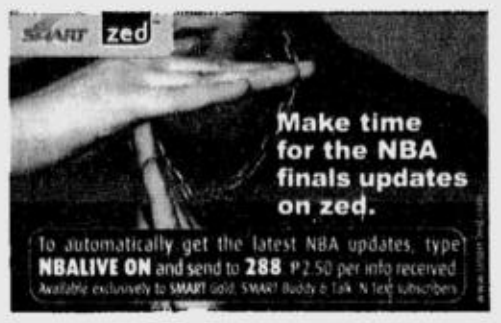


Mangubat fails in WBC title bid

By Salven Lagumbay
Contributor

RANDY Mangubat of the Philippines failed in his bid to win the World Boxing Council flyweight crown when he was again outpointed by defending champion Pongsaklek Wongjongkam of Thailand in a close, rugged contest yesterday.

There were no knockdowns in the 12-round bout held in an open arena in Songkla Province, 1000 kms. from Bangkok but Mangubat got stalled after he was slapped a one-point deduction midway in the fight.

Mangubat, 27, who had lost two previous fights with Wongjongkam, failed to nail down his wily opponent who resorted to clinching and thus lost by unanimous decision to the same fighter for the third time.

On Thursday, Mangubat's handlers saw a ray of hope after the champion had a long, terrible time making the weight.

Mangubat tried to penetrate Wongjongkam's defense, trading heavy blows with the Thai warrior, but the champ opted to clinch each time the challenger would get the upperhand.

"It was a very good fight. We thought we won, but we don't have alibis. The champion is also good," said Yukichika Murayama, Mangubat's manager, in a long-distance talk with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

A one-point deduction was slapped on Mangubat in the early rounds and Murayama said he could not understand the reason behind the penalty.

Although the referee often warned Wongjongkam against clinching, Mangubat's manager said the official did not dare deduct any point from the Thai champion.

"We don't want to say it was biased officiating, because it would appear like we were sour-graping. But we feel we won the fight," Murayama added.

The loss dipped Mangubat's record to 31-18-11, with 14 KO's, while Wongjongkam improved to 47-2, with 26 KO's.

The fight will be aired tomorrow over RPN-9 starting at 9 p.m.

Team Mangubat is expected to arrive today after a brief layover in Bangkok.

It was the first fight for Wongjongkam since his last crown defense in November, and the champion won more on guile than on a display of excellent fighting.

The explosive Pongsaklek, who took the flyweight crown via a first-round stoppage of Filipino Malcolm Tunacao in Pichit, Thailand in March 2001, has not lost since 1996.

The 27-year-old Mangubat, a native of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, holder of the WBC International title and ranked WBC No. 10, thus failed to join three Filipinos who had previously wrested world titles from their Thai foes.

Erbito Salavarria, Mangubat's trainer, dethroned Thai boxing legend Chartchai Chionoi on Dec. 7, 1970; Manny Pacquiao beat Chatchai Sasakul in December 1998; while Malcolm Tuñacao took the crown from Medgoen 3k Battery by knockout in May 2000.
With a report from Rey Danseco

RP jumpers have high hopes in GP

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF the country once had Asia's sprints queens in Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros, it now has two emerging forces raring to ascend to the region's jumping throne - Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres.

The duo have been garnering honors in the on-going Asian Athletic Grand Prix, the dollar-rich, by-invitation-only event for Asia's top five athletes in 15 selected events which will culminate with its fourth and final leg in the country on Monday.

Bulauitan-Gabito has strung up two silver medals, while Torres has placed second once in the first three legs of the Grand Prix held in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. On all occasions, they played second fiddle to Kazakhstan's Yelena Kochsheyeva.

"She's very strong but in the past three legs we have seen that she is beatable," said the 28-year-old Bulauitan-Gabito.

PBA told how to do proper drug test

By June Navarro

A PHYSICIAN accredited by the Dangerous Drugs Board has offered vital steps on how the Philippine Basketball Association could realign its drug-testing program, which came under fire during hearings in both Houses of Congress the other day.

Bernard Regalado, one of the physicians tasked to formulate the drug-testing program of the Philippine Basketball League, strongly suggested that the PBA should go back to the drawing board and review its policies.

Regalado recommended that the first basic step is to make the rules and guidelines on the testing procedure flawless as much as possible.

"Make sure the policy is totally foolproof. I've been to court a number of times and every step was being attacked and challenged," said Regalado.

"The entire process is like a chain where the weakest link is as strong as the strongest link. Meaning, if there's a breakdown somewhere along the way, it could compromise everything, even the results," he added.

Regalado said a mishap could have possibly happened to the PBA players who continue to maintain their innocence after being tested positive for

PBA/ A29

Change system now, Big J tells Noli Eala

By Dennis U.Eroa

SEN. Robert Jaworski yesterday reiterated there are flaws in the PBA's drug testing system and called on Commissioner Noli Eala to act quickly and correct the procedure now.

Jaworski, dubbed the Living Legend of local cagedom, reacted to Eala's decision to slap indefinite suspensions on PBA players who flunked the controversial mandatory testing which has come under fire from experts.

Eala told a Senate hearing last Thursday that he's standing firm on the suspensions and whatever transpired in the hearings can only be taken into consideration in future cases.

Jaworski and fellow Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate Committee on Public Order, Illegal drugs and Games, Amusements and Sports, and Dr. Raul Canlas, medical director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine and lone Asian representative in the powerful International Basketball Federation Medical Commission, guested in yesterday's SCOOP Session at Kamayan Restaurant in West Avenue, QC.

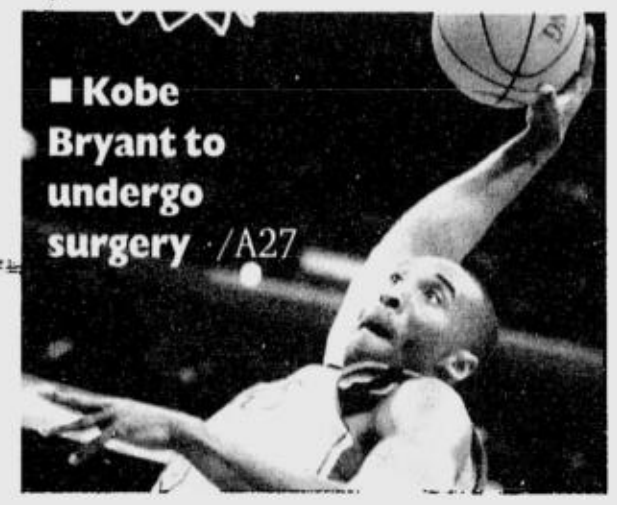
"The players' rights had been violated and this should be addressed immediately. The recent Senate hearing showed that there were, indeed, errors in the implementation of the program, which were made the basis (for) slapping penalties, so they have to be corrected," Jaworski said in reference to the hearing conducted by the committee chaired by Sen. Barbers.

"I think Commissioner Noli Eala misinterpreted the Senate's intention in conducting the investigation. Let me repeat this, our intention is to help the PBA rid its ranks of drugs, which to us is a noble and laudable undertaking."

The PBA media bureau yesterday said Eala was thankful to both the Senate and the House

CHANGE/ A29

WHAT'S INSIDE



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■ **Questions linger for Nets in Game 2** /A26

■ **All-Belgian women's finale in French Open** /A28

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■ **Million dollar challenge for Annika** /A28

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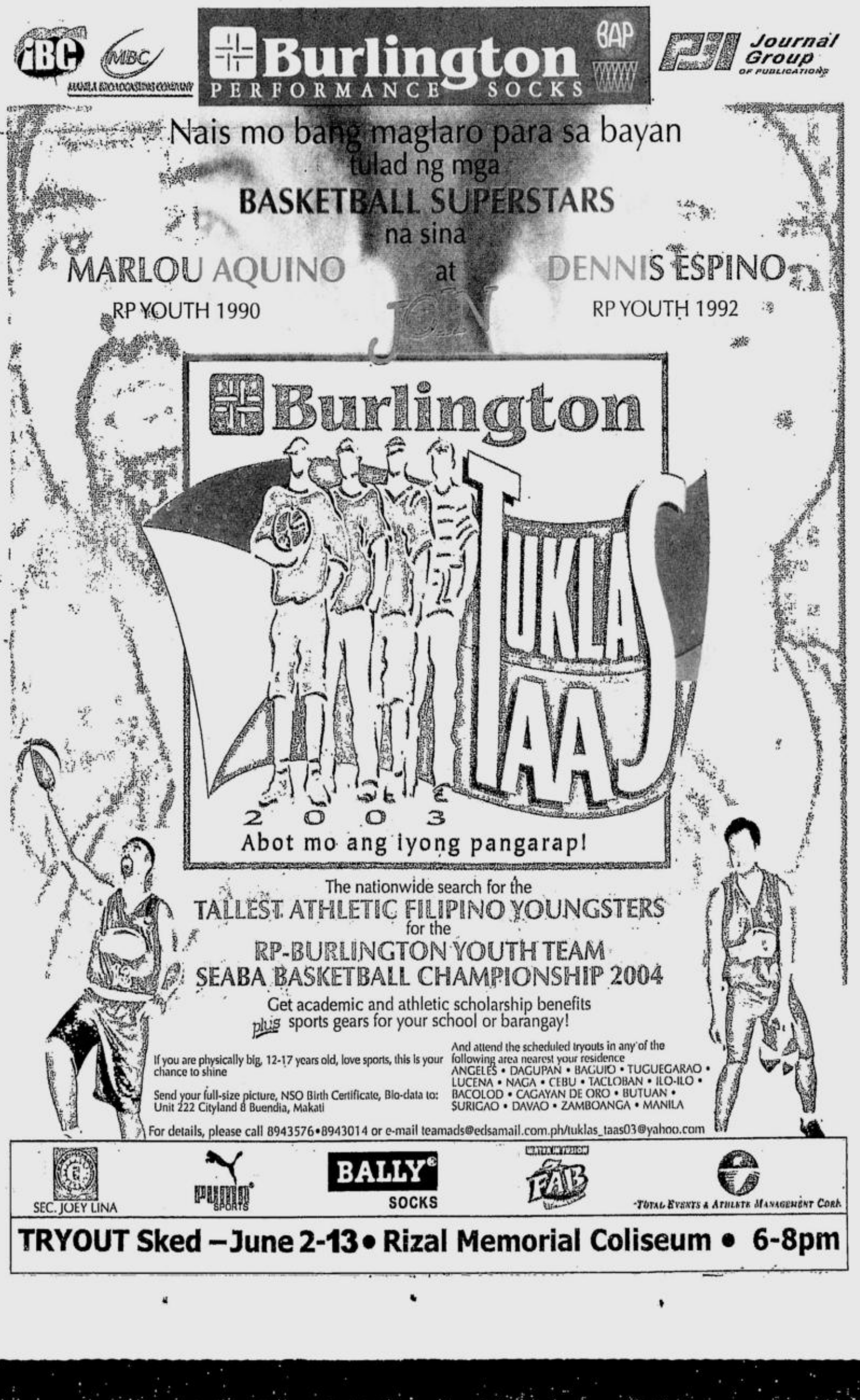


Special athletes, great assets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT WAS the most unpleasant task in the world.

Manny Inductivo said he had to try his careful best not to further disorient his son Mark, a 25-year-old champion bowler who threw a tantrum upon learning that he and his teammates had been banned from travelling to Ireland for the World Summer Special Olympics.

The poor father said he tried to appease his son by driving him around the village.

Later back at home, Mark had totally forgotten about the cancellation of their foreign stint while enjoying his favorite video game.

Diagnosed with autism at age four, Mark is one of the 14 Filipino athletes who almost didn't make it to the World Summer Special Olympics in Dublin, Ireland later this month due to the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) scare.

"You just have to divert his point of interest," said Manny of his eldest son, who has a lot more at stake in the Special Olympics than the hours he had spent training at Power Bowl in Rockwell.

"One of his paintings is already there for the Special Olympics arts exhibit," said Manny, referring to the acrylic piece which depicted Filipino Special athletes in action.

SPECIAL bowlers (seated) Sara Ungson, Roxanne Ng, Stephanie Babst and (standing) Alfred Abueg, Mark Inductivo and Jonny Zulueta. BETOY JOHNSON

Mark, who captured a bronze and a silver in the 1999 edition in North Carolina, has a strong chance of winning a gold medal, according to his father.

Unlike Mark, his fellow athletes were blissfully not informed of the ban earlier imposed by the hosts on Filipino participants.

"I decided not to tell them," said Special Olympics Philippines sports director Rene Gacuma of the five-man track and field team. "Of course, I also dreaded the thought of them coming to me and asking why I fooled them."

Luckily, he didn't have to after Ireland reversed its decision a day after the World Health Organization removed the Philippines from its SARS list last month. The RP delegation, led by two officials and five coaches, will leave June 15.

Of the athletes, Gacuma says he's banking on his tracksters to deliver the most medals.

He singled out Delmer (a special athlete's surname could be given only with a parents' consent) who comes from a poor family and had been training without running shoes until a sponsor gave him one last week.

The 25-year-old Delmer is an autistic and is also partially deaf. "It's my shorts he is wearing right now," said Gacuma, who will enter him in the century dash, 200 meters and 4 X 400m relay.

The track and field team, coached by Irene Soriano, is also composed of Francisco, who will compete in the 400m and 800m, Michael in shot put and relays, Mark M. in shot put and Dwight in steady long jump.

Dwight was part of the RP soccer team that won the gold in the 1991 Special Olympiad in Minnesota. He and Mark Inductivo work as teaching aides at St. Catherine School in Antipolo.

"Most of these athletes commute all by themselves and are highly functional by themselves," said Gacuma.

Probably the most functional of them is Michael Almendrala, the eldest participant at 34, who will be the country's lone bet in powerlifting.

Almendrala is now employed as a computer encoder and office assistant in the Philippine Information Agency.

"He has great interest in computers," said Almendrala's mother Carmel, president of Special Olympics Philippines. "That's why he also acts as some sort of a computer tutor in the office."

"If parents of special children only do their share, these special children will never be treated as liabilities but assets," said Carmel, whose son will compete in the bench press, squat, deadlift categories.

The national team members were selected from among the 1,000-strong training pool, who were taken in from public high schools and national competitions.

The rest of the delegation are Andrew Bryan and Lora Angelina in swimming, Mark Inductivo, Jonathan, Alfred, Roxanne, Stephanie and Sarah Angelina in bowling.

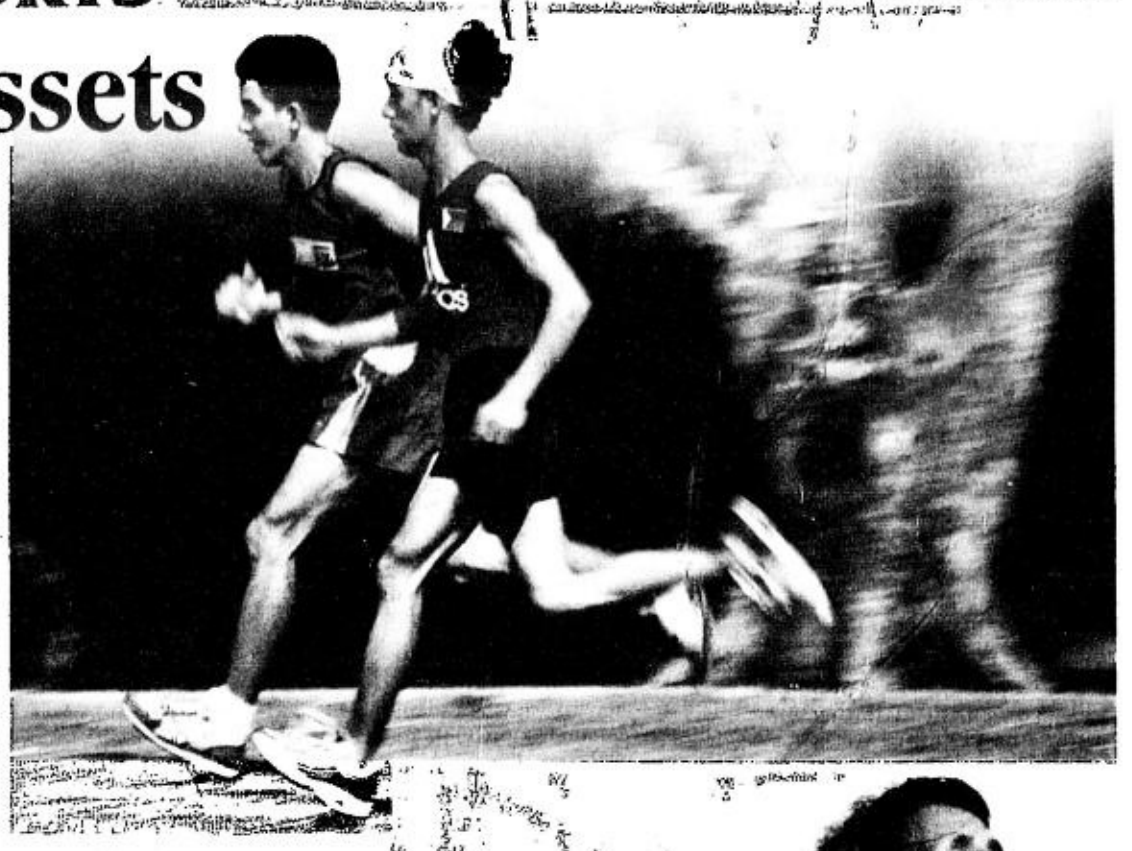
"This is a scrappy, self-funded team," said Gacuma. "We could have sent more but we have problems funding them."

Gacuma, saying he has lost track of the number of gold medals the country has won in the Summer Special Olympics, boldly predicted that RP could total at least seven gold medals in Ireland.

"I just hope we deliver in Ireland so we can generate more support back here," said Gacuma. "These kids are looking at sports at its purest form."

"There's an effort giving them instructions," said Gacuma, "but there certainly is no ego to deal with and things are as simple as winning or losing."

Exactly what sports is supposed to be.



SPECIAL TRAINING. Dwight stretches with colleagues before taking track practice with teammate Delmer (top photo). They are part of the Philippine team competing in the Special Olympics in Ireland this month.

SPECIAL ATHLETES in training (from left) Dwight, Michael, Delmer, Mark and Francisco ROGER CARPIO

I was the victim, says Gatchalian

By Jong Arcano

NOT the villain, almost the victim.

Business tycoon William Gatchalian defended himself in the club-hitting incident he got involved in at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club recently, claiming Greg Yu made him very angry by deliberately hitting a shot that endangered his life.

He did this just to prove a point in golf etiquette, Gatchalian said.

His version of the March 18 incident–the major details of which came out in the INQUIRER yesterday–projects Yu, whose story accuses Gatchalian of hitting him with a club, as the aggressor.

Gatchalian arrived yesterday from an overseas trip. His version of the incident:

On March 18, 2003 at about 7 a.m., more or less, I was playing alone at the east course of Wack Wack behind the group of Mr. Yu. Ahead was the foursome of Mr. Benito Lim.

Upon reaching the green of Hole No.4, I noticed that the Lim group was playing much faster and was already teeing off at Hole No. 7. There was therefore more than one complete hole separating them from the group of Mr. Yu. Because of that gap, I decided to skip Holes No. 5 and 6, and proceeded instead to cut across to tee No. 7. The move put me immediately behind the Lim group but way ahead of the Yu group. I made the move quite innocently, even thinking at the time that the Yu group would probably not even notice I could soon be more than two shots ahead of them; nor would they mind since it would not disturb their tempo as I would no longer be pressing them from behind.

After teeing off at No. 7, I proceeded down the fairway to my ball. It landed in the fairway, right of center, around 150 yards from the green. I watched them while I waited. Suddenly, something whizzed past my head coming from behind me, about an inch from my ear, and landed a few feet in front of me. It was a golf ball! A few more inches and it could have hit my head and probably cracked my skull. There was never a warning before the shot was made; otherwise, I would have watched for the ball or move to the side to avoid being hit. Only seconds before the ball whizzed past my head did I hear "fore" from behind.

When I realized that the ball came from tee No. 7, I went back to the direction to complain to the person responsible. I was met by Mr. Gregorio Yu who was walking unhurriedly towards me, with golf club on hand. I expected an apology, instead the first thing he said was: "Don't you know anything about golf regulation?" He went on berating me, faulting me for violating golf etiquette by going ahead of them without their permission.

It was then that it dawned on me that Mr. Yu had deliberately tried to hit me with golf shot to intimidate me. The realization that he would deliberately endanger my life in order to prove a point in golf etiquette made me extremely angry. This was aggravated by his smug demeanor and self-righteous tone of voice. I felt an extreme anger to box him right then and there, but I could not get myself to hit someone who refused to fight. I tapped him on leg with my club to incite him to fight, but he refused. All the while he insisted that what I did was wrong. Mr. Yu never apologized neither did he show any sign of remorse for his action.

Granting that I should not have skipped holes, this minor omission did not give Mr. Yu the excuse, especially since I was in the middle of the fairway, visible to everybody, to deliberately hit me with a dangerous drive that can easily knock down, incapacitate or kill!

Hapee favored over Viva as PBL title series starts

GAMES TODAY (*Quezon Convention Center*)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs John O
4 p.m.—Viva vs Hapee

By Dennis U. Eroa

WITH THE odds heavily stacked in its favor, Hapee Toothpaste tries to gain the headstart when it battles Viva Mineral Water in Game One today of the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five title series at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

The Sparklers have beaten the Water Force in all their four meetings so far and will use their vaunted experience to the hilt to continue their domination in the 4 p.m. contest.

Viva used its never-say-die attitude to emerge surprise finalist, but coach Koy Banal's charges must find a way to contain Hapee's well-oiled rotation to complete its amazing run.

Montaña and John O earlier clash for third place at 2 p.m.

Despite Hapee's advantage, coach Junel Baculi, who is eyeing his sixth PBL title in 10 stints in the finals, isn't taking Viva lightly.

Baculi said Viva's fastbreaking game and its tireless press are working wonders for the Water Force.

"Koy's team is young and energetic. We've studied their games thoroughly and we know what to expect from Viva," Baculi said.

Lucena City is not a friendly site for Baculi as Hapee bowed in the same center to eventual champion Welcoat also in Game One of the Chairman's Cup series last conference.

"We want to show our friends in Lucena that we can also win in front of them," Baculi promised.

Aside from the high-scoring Peter Simon, Hapee boasts of top rebounder and defensive specialist Rich Alvarez, a two-time UAAP MVP.

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NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 1, Nets 0

Game 1: San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2 at San Antonio (June 7, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 3 at New Jersey (June 9, 8:30 a.m.)
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*IF NECESSARY
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 014

All in the family

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
❑True / ❑False: Bobby Pacquiao is the older brother of Manny Pacquiao.

2 > 5 Pts.
Which Williams sister was the first to win a tennis grand slam title?
❑Serena
❑Venus

3 > 7 Pts.
Michael Schumacher is the top gun of Ferrari in the World Formula One Grand Prix, while younger brother Ralph drives for which team?
Williams-BMW
❑BAR-Honda
❑MacLaren-Mercedes

4 > 10 Pts.
In 1996, which of the amazing Polgar sisters of Hungary became the first to win the world's women's chess championship?
❑Judit
❑Zsofia
❑Zsuzsa

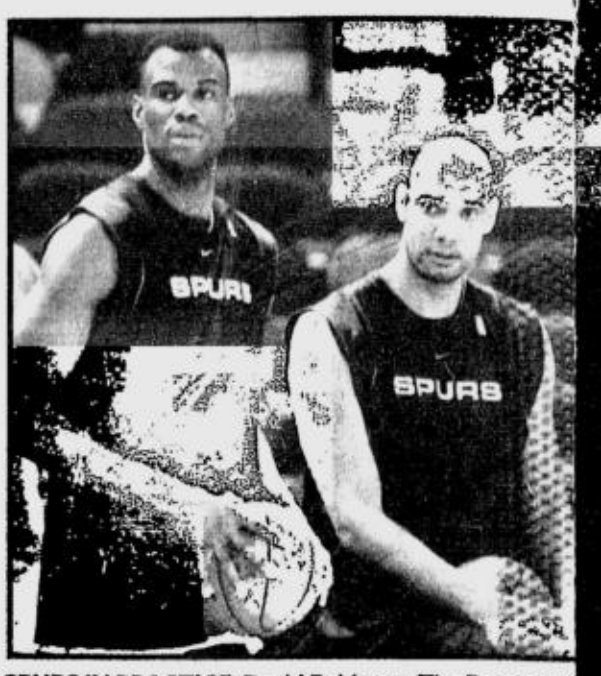
5 > 20 Pts.
In 1867, Old Tom Morris became the oldest man to win this major golf tournament at age 46. The year after, his son Young Tom Morris became the youngest man to win the same tournament at age 17. What grand slam event is this?
❑British Open
❑Masters
❑PGA Championship
❑US Open

6 > 25 Pts.
The first time a husband and a wife had ever won gold medals in the Olympics was at the 1952 Helsinki Games. The legendary Czech runner Emile Zatopek ruled the 5,000-meter, 10,000-meter and marathon races, while his wife, Dana, prevailed in what field event?
❑Shot put
❑Long jump
❑Discus throw
❑Javelin throw

7 > 30 Pts.
Only two sets of three siblings have played in the PBA. One of them is the Codinera trio of Jerry, Harmon, and Pat. What's the other basketball-playing family of brothers?

ANSWERS/ A29

Questions linger, answers speak volumes for Nets going into Game 2



SPURS IN PRACTICE. David Robinson, Tim Duncan an Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs watch the rest of th today's game 2.

SAN ANTONIO—There was plenty of second-guessing Thursday at the NBA Finals, most of it centered around Nets coach Byron Scott, New Jersey forward Kenyon Martin and the defensive strategies against San Antonio's Tim Duncan.

The questions were all valid; the answers spoke volumes.

—Why did Scott leave Martin on the bench for 7½ minutes in the second half after he picked up his fourth foul?

"I talked to Kenyon and he didn't know why he was sitting there," Jason Kidd said.

— Why didn't Scott send more double-teams at Duncan when Martin was on the bench?

"That's not our game plan, to come out and double him right off, but if (Duncan's) got it going, a fool wouldn't do it," Martin said.

— Why didn't Dikembe Mutombo get a chance to defend Duncan in the second half?

"It is surprising that they don't have him in their rotation," Duncan said.

Plenty of the second-guessing was coming from the Nets themselves, who curtly answered "Ask the coach" when questioned about strategy.

Scott conceded he has begun thinking about giving Mutombo a bigger role, but said he had no regrets about leaving Martin on the bench for so long in the third and fourth quarters.

"I went over the tape last night and this morning," Scott said. "I still feel the same way."

With Game 2 of the best-of-seven series scheduled for Friday night (8:30 a.m. Saturday in Manila), there will be plenty of focus on the adjustments Scott makes–or whether he makes any at all.

After all, this is the same coach who refused to double-team Shaquille O'Neal until Game 3 of last year's finals.

He's also the same coach who raised the white flag against the Lakers in Game 4, pulling Kidd and Martin off the floor with 44 seconds remaining and his team trailing by only six points.

"As far as adjusting, just looking at the tapes, the three things we talked about doing we just didn't do a real good job of doing," Scott said. "Our pick-and-roll defense has to be better, our post defense has to be better, our pressure and containment has to be better."

New Jersey's offense has to be better, too, but that won't really matter if the Nets can't find a way to contain Duncan.

The league's MVP had 32 points, 20 rebounds, seven blocks and six assists, although the Nets did manage to hold him to two points in the first quarter when Martin defended him one-on-one.

But in the second half, Martin went to the bench with 2:28 remaining in the third quarter. He stayed there until 6:56 remained in the game, with Duncan scoring nine points in Martin's absence as Rodney Rogers and Aaron Williams were helpless to stop him.

"I did kind of expect (Mutombo) to bit more," Robinson big 7-foot-3 (2.20-me it's kind of nice to be a

Rogers gives up fi (2.13-meter) Duncan inches shorter. Dunc against them, from se post to popping outsid

All the while, Muto sive player of the year

"I was brought in t win a championship championship, but I'm Mutombo said. "Your s and ask him."

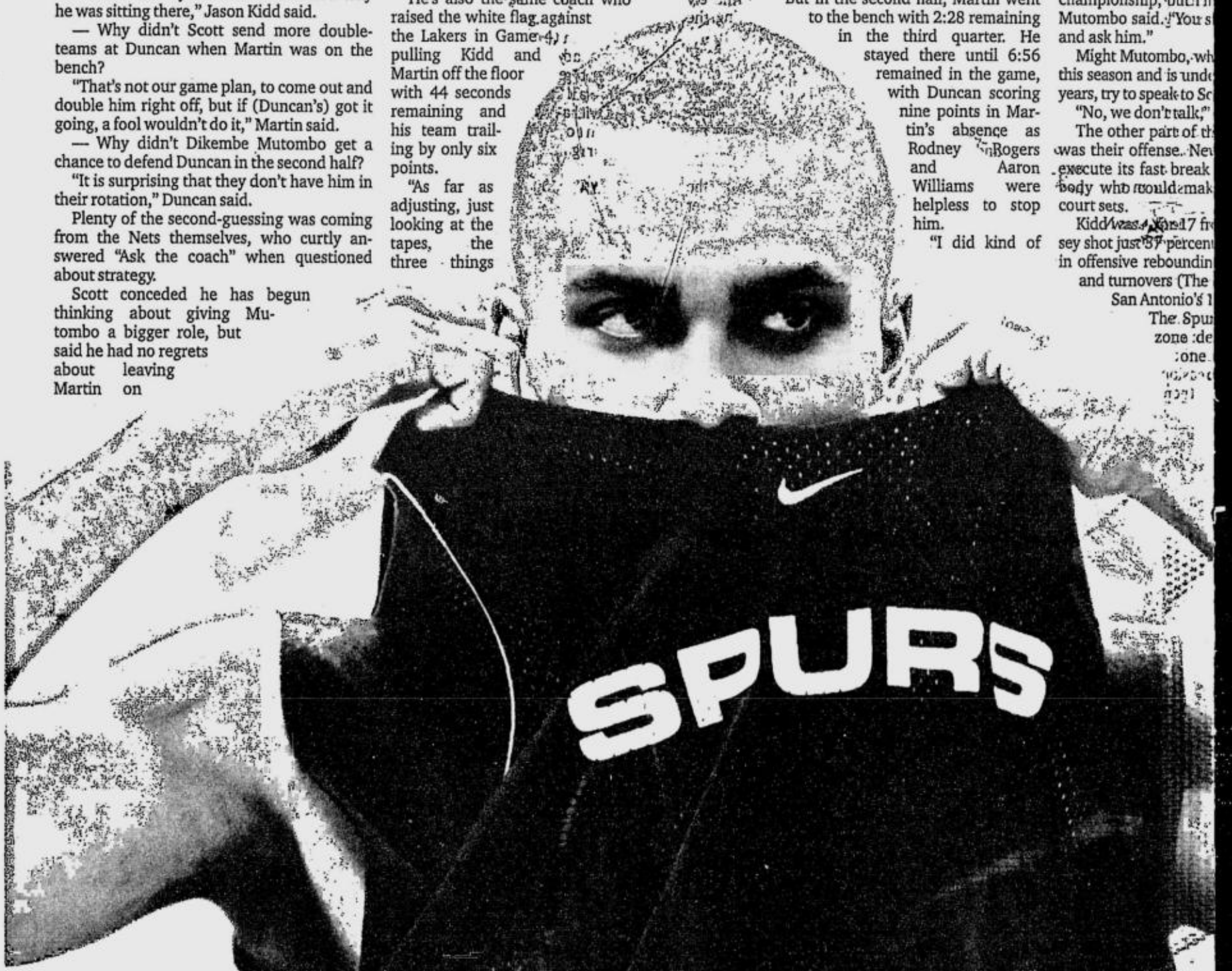
Might Mutombo, wh this season and is und years, try to speak to Sc

"No, we don't talk,"

The other part of th was their offense. Ne execute its fast break body who would mak court sets.

Kidd was 4-for-17 fr sey shot just 37 percen in offensive reboundin and turnovers (The San Antonio's 1

The Spu zone de zone



SPURS' sparkplug, Frenchman Tony Parker, pulls up his shirt after team practice.

Kidd who couldn't shoot straight vows to come back

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—New Jersey's National Basketball Association title hopes are suffering from a shooting pain—their woefully inaccurate performance against San Antonio in game one of the NBA Finals.

With All-Star guard Jason Kidd going 4-of-17, the Nets connected on just 37 percent of their shots as the Spurs routed the Nets 101-89 and looked to move halfway to winning the best-of-seven series by taking game two here Friday.

Call them Jason and the "Arrgh-Oh-Nets" or honor the Wild West setting and call him "The Kidd Who Couldn't Shoot Straight". In a city where the famed American slogan "Remember the Alamo" recalls the deaths of 1836 Texas freedom fighters, the Nets are desperate to forget.

"Sooner or later, I'm going to have to make some shots if we're going to have a chance to win," Kidd said. "We've got to make some adjustments." Neither team expects Kidd to struggle so much again.

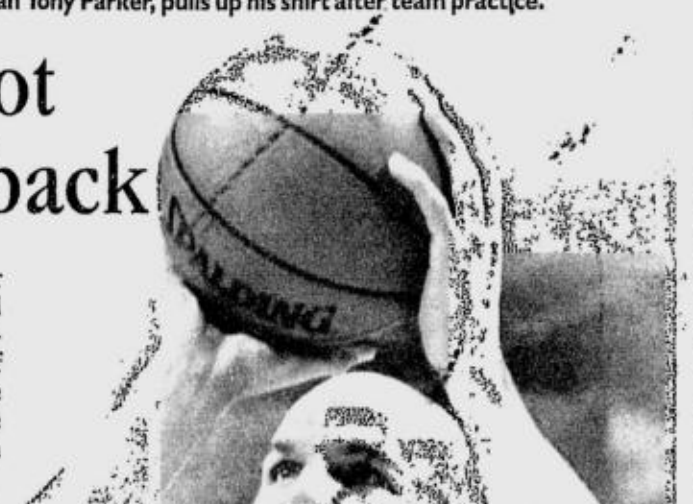
"He's going to come out in game two and take it to them," said Nets reserve Lucious Harris. "You have to take it personally, I think he did. He's going to take the way he played and not put any excuses on anybody or anything else." San Antonio guard Tony Parker, a 21-year-old Frenchman, has had to endure a year of speculation that the Spurs would be signing Kidd after the season. He knows all too well his challenge on defense will be intensified.

"He's going to come back strong. I have to be ready," Parker said. "He is not going to shoot the ball like that every night." New Jersey's other major challenge will be limiting NBA Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan. He scored 32 points, grabbed 20 rebounds, blocked seven shots, made three steals and passed off six assists to lead the Spurs and stagger the Nets.

"I don't think I have ever seen a line like that in my life," New Jersey starting forward Richard Jefferson said.

Nets coach Byron Scott admitted that 7-footer Duncan will likely excel no matter what his club does defensively.

"No matter what we do, Tim is going to get his 20 to 30 points. To me that's almost a given," Scott said. *AFP*



JASON KIDD: "Im going to have to make more shots." AFP

Sosa lets bat do the t

CHICAGO—Two days after his corked bat controversy, Sammy Sosa delivered a run-scoring single in the first inning to pave the way for the Chicago Cubs's 8-1 rout of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Interleague play Thursday.

That was the Dominican-born slugger's only hit of the game, although he did score a run in the third following Ramon Martinez's double.

Chicago picked up seven runs in the third, all charged to Dewon Brazleton (1-5). Matt Clement (3-6) tossed seven innings of seven-hit ball for the win.

No punishment has yet been announced by Major League Baseball after umpires found illegal cork in Sosa's broken bat during Tuesday's game against the Devil Rays.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Montreal Expos scored three times in the bottom of the 14th inning to edge the Anaheim Angels 8-7 in a thriller.

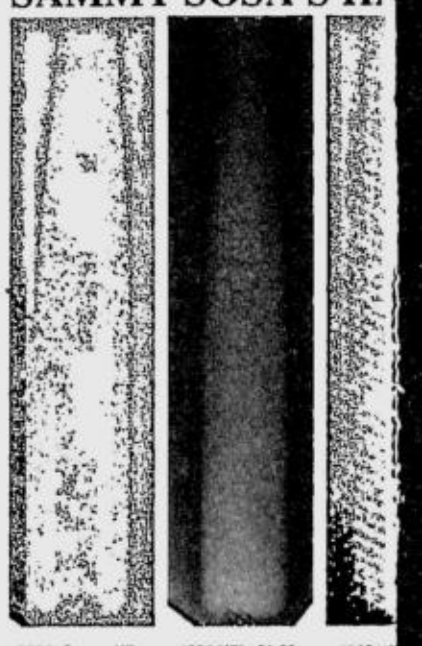
Anaheim appeared to have the game won when it plated two runs in the top of the 14th but Jose Vidro and Ron Calloway singled off Mickey Callaway (1-4) to win it for the home side.

Joey Eischen (1-0), the sixth of six Montreal pitchers, notched the victory.

In Atlanta, Javy Lopez belted a seventh-inning homer to snap a 4-4 tie as the Braves thumped the Texas Rangers 8-4.

The victory gave the Braves a se-

SAMMY SOSA'S HA



500th Career HR 1998 HR's 64-66 1998 HI

ALL CLEAR: X-rays of the the Hall of F Sammy Sosa are shown in these hando cork or anything else that would violat

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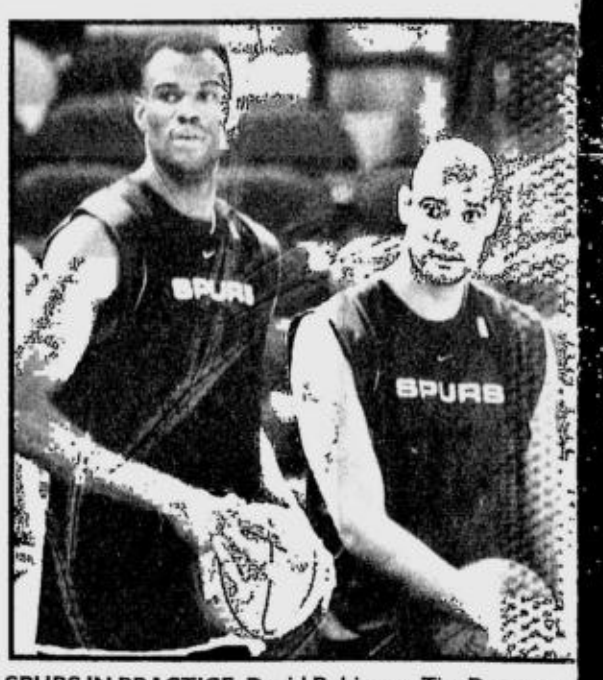
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

Questions linger, answers speak volumes for Nets going into Game 2



SPURS IN PRACTICE. David Robinson, Tim Duncan an Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs watch the rest of th today's game 2.

SAN ANTONIO—There was plenty of second-guessing Thursday at the NBA Finals, most of it centered around Nets coach Byron Scott, New Jersey forward Kenyon Martin and the defensive strategies against San Antonio's Tim Duncan.

The questions were all valid; the answers spoke volumes.

— Why did Scott leave Martin on the bench for 7½ minutes in the second half after he picked up his fourth foul?

"I talked to Kenyon and he didn't know why he was sitting there," Jason Kidd said.

— Why didn't Scott send more double-teams at Duncan when Martin was on the bench?

"That's not our game plan, to come out and double him right off, but if (Duncan's) got it going, a fool wouldn't do it," Martin said.

— Why didn't Dikembe Mutombo get a chance to defend Duncan in the second half?

"It is surprising that they don't have him in their rotation," Duncan said.

Plenty of the second-guessing was coming from the Nets themselves, who curtly answered "Ask the coach" when questioned about strategy.

Scott conceded he has begun thinking about giving Mutombo a bigger role, but said he had no regrets about leaving Martin on the bench for so long in the third and fourth quarters.

"I went over the tape last night and this morning," Scott said. "I still feel the same way."

With Game 2 of the best-of-seven series scheduled for Friday night (8:30 a.m. Saturday in Manila), there will be plenty of focus on the adjustments Scott makes—or whether he makes any at all.

After all, this is the same coach who refused to double-team Shaquille O'Neal until Game 3 of last year's finals.

He's also the same coach who raised the white flag against the Lakers in Game 4, pulling Kidd and Martin off the floor with 44 seconds remaining and his team trailing by only six points.

"As far as adjusting, just looking at the tapes, the three things we talked about doing we just didn't do a real good job of doing," Scott said. "Our pick-and-roll defense has to be better, our post defense has to be better, our pressure and containment has to be better."

New Jersey's offense has to be better, too, but that won't really matter if the Nets can't find a way to contain Duncan.

The league's MVP had 32 points, 20 rebounds, seven blocks and six assists, although the Nets did manage to hold him to two points in the first quarter when Martin defended him one-on-one.

But in the second half, Martin went to the bench with 2:28 remaining in the third quarter. He stayed there until 6:56 remained in the game, with Duncan scoring nine points in Martin's absence as Rodney Rogers and Aaron Williams were helpless to stop him.

"I did kind of expect (Mutombo) to bit more," Robinson s big 7-foot-3 (2.20-me it's kind of nice to be

Rogers gives up fi (2.13-meter) Duncan inches shorter. Dun against them, from s post to popping outsi

All the while, Muto sive player of the year

"I was brought in win a championship championship, but I' Mutombo said. "You and ask him."

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"No, we don't talk,"

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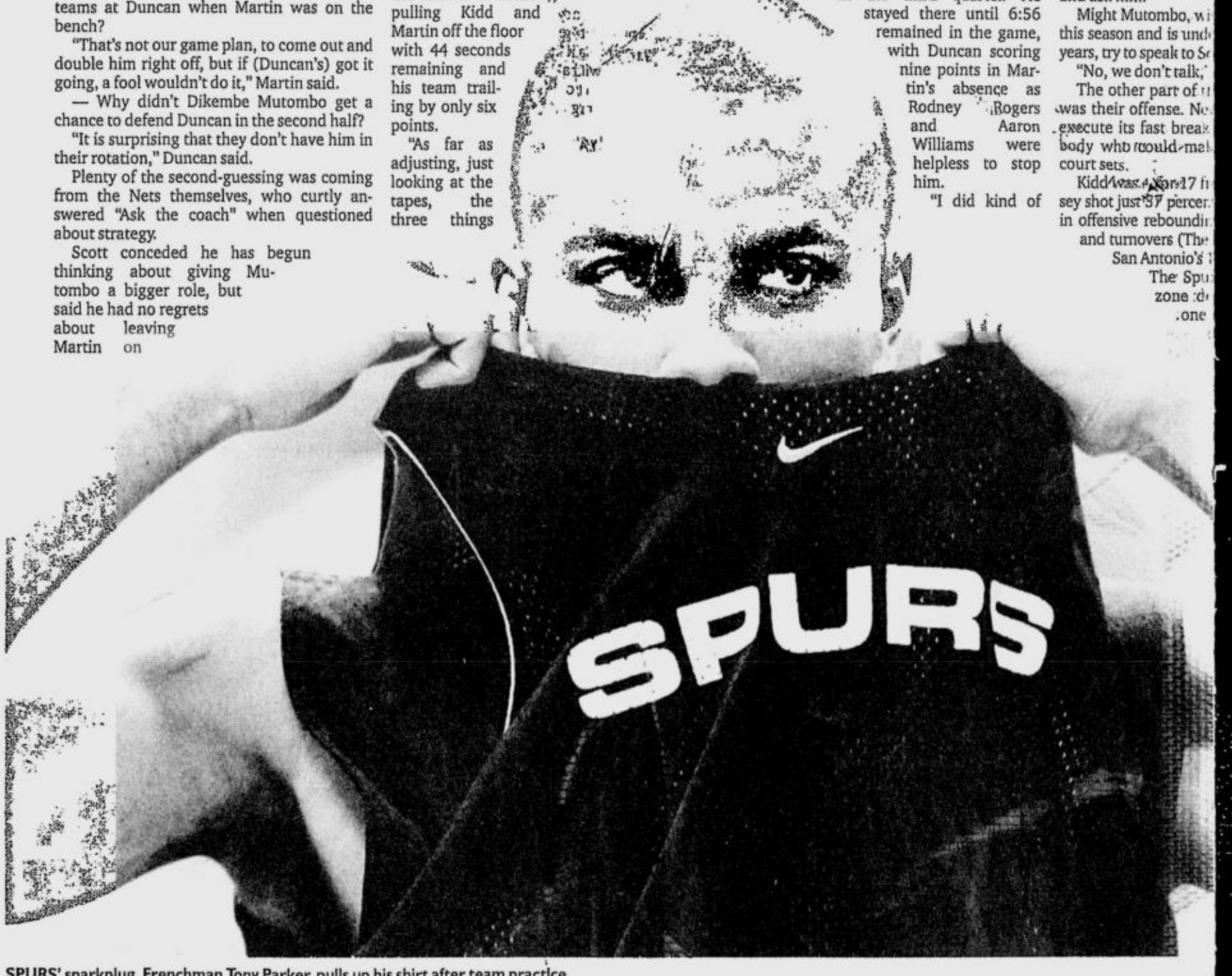
Kidd was 4 for 17 f sey shot just 37 percen in offensive rebound and turnovers (Th San Antonio's The Spu zone de one



SPURS' sparkplug, Frenchman Tony Parker, pulls up his shirt after team practice.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 014

All in the family

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
❑True / ❑False: Bobby Pacquiao is the older brother of Manny Pacquiao.

2 > 5 Pts.
Which Williams sister was the first to win a tennis grand slam title?
❑Serena
❑Venus

3 > 7 Pts.
Michael Schumacher is the top gun of Ferrari in the World Formula One Grand Prix, while younger brother Ralph drives for which team?
Williams-BMW
❑BAR-Honda
❑MacLaren-Mercedes

4 > 10 Pts.
In 1996, which of the amazing Polgar sisters of Hungary became the first to win the world's women's chess championship?
❑Judit
❑Zsofia
❑Zsuzsa

5 > 20 Pts.
In 1867, Old Tom Morris became the oldest man to win this major golf tournament at age 46. The year after, his son Young Tom Morris became the youngest man to win the same tournament at age 17. What grand slam event is this?
❑British Open
❑Masters
❑PGA Championship
❑US Open

6 > 25 Pts.
The first time a husband and a wife had ever won gold medals in the Olympics was at the 1952 Helsinki Games. The legendary Czech runner Emile Zatopek ruled the 5,000-meter, 10,000-meter and marathon races, while his wife, Dana, prevailed in what field event?
❑Shot put
❑Long jump
❑Discus throw
❑Javelin throw

7 > 30 Pts.
Only two sets of three siblings have played in the PBA. One of them is the Codinera trio of Jerry, Harmon, and Pat. What's the other basketball-playing family of brothers?

ANSWERS/ A29

Kidd who couldn't shoot straight vows to come back

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—New Jersey's National Basketball Association title hopes are suffering from a shooting pain—their woefully inaccurate performance against San Antonio in game one of the NBA Finals.

With All-Star guard Jason Kidd going 4-of-17, the Nets connected on just 37 percent of their shots as the Spurs routed the Nets 101-89 and looked to move halfway to winning the best-of-seven series by taking game two here Friday.

Call them Jason and the "Arrgh-Oh-Nets" or honor the Wild West setting and call him "The Kidd Who Couldn't Shoot Straight". In a city where the famed American slogan "Remember the Alamo" recalls the deaths of 1836 Texas freedom fighters, the Nets are desperate to forget.

"Sooner or later, I'm going to have to make some shots if we're going to have a chance to win," Kidd said. "We've got to make some adjustments." Neither team expects Kidd to struggle so much again.

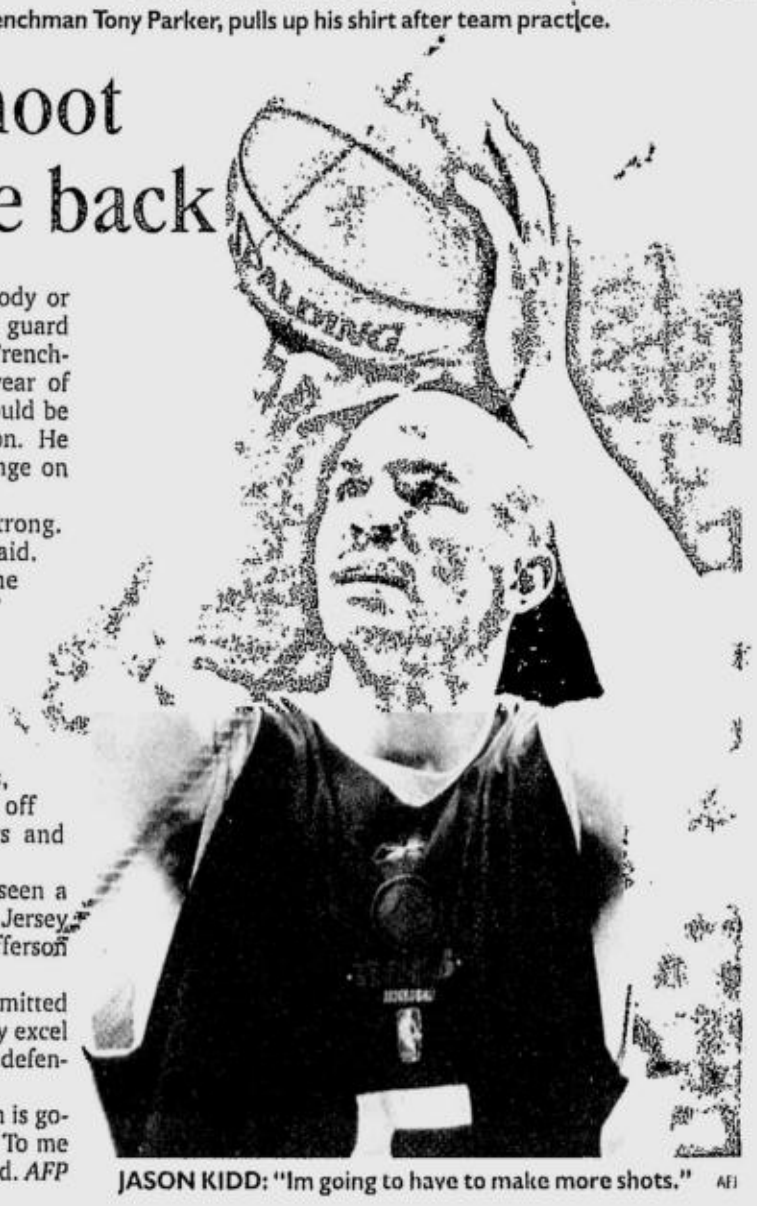
"He's going to come out in game two and take it to them," said Nets reserve Lucious Harris. "You have to take it personally. I think he did. He's going to take the way he played and not put any excuses on anybody or anything else." San Antonio guard Tony Parker, a 21-year-old Frenchman, has had to endure a year of speculation that the Spurs would be signing Kidd after the season. He knows all too well his challenge on defense will be intensified.

"He's going to come back strong. I have to be ready," Parker said. "He is not going to shoot the ball like that every night." New Jersey's other major challenge will be limiting NBA Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan. He scored 32 points, grabbed 20 rebounds, blocked seven shots, made three steals and passed off six assists to lead the Spurs and stagger the Nets.

"I don't think I have ever seen a line like that in my life," New Jersey starting forward Richard Jefferson said.

Nets coach Byron Scott admitted that 7-footer Duncan will likely excel no matter what his club does defensively.

"No matter what we do, Tim is going to get his 20 to 30 points. To me that's almost a given," Scott said. *AFP*



JASON KIDD: "Im going to have to make more shots." AFI

Sosa lets bat do the t

CHICAGO—Two days after his corked bat controversy, Sammy Sosa delivered a run-scoring single in the first inning to pave the way for the Chicago Cubs's 8-1 rout of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Interleague play Thursday.

That was the Dominican-born slugger's only hit of the game, although he did score a run in the third following Ramon Martinez's double.

Chicago picked up seven runs in the third, all charged to Dewon Brazleton (1-5). Matt Clement (3-6) tossed seven innings of seven-hit ball for the win.

No punishment has yet been announced by Major League Baseball after umpires found illegal cork in Sosa's broken bat during Tuesday's game against the Devil Rays.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Montreal Expos scored three times in the bottom of the 14th inning to edge the Anaheim Angels 8-7 in a thriller.

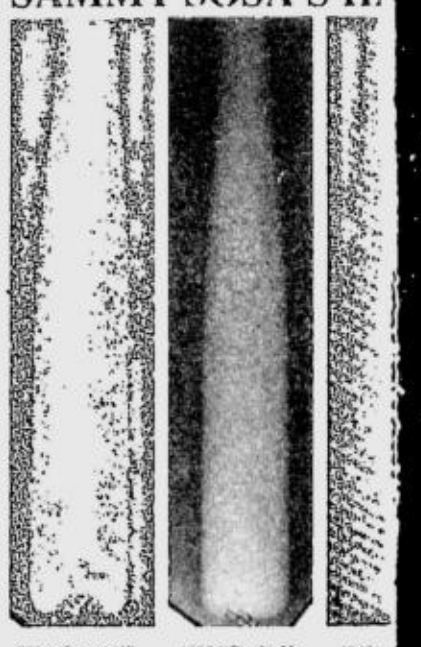
Anaheim appeared to have the game won when it plated two runs in the top of the 14th but Jose Vidro and Ron Calloway singled off Mickey Callaway (1-4) to win it for the home side.

Joey Eischen (1-0), the sixth of six Montreal pitchers, notched the victory.

In Atlanta, Javy Lopez belted a seventh-inning homer to snap a 4-4 tie as the Braves thumped the Texas Rangers 8-4.

The victory gave the Braves a se-

SAMMY SOSA'S H



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ALL CLEAR: X-rays of the the Hall of F Sammy Sosa are shown in these hande cork or anything else that would violat

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AFP

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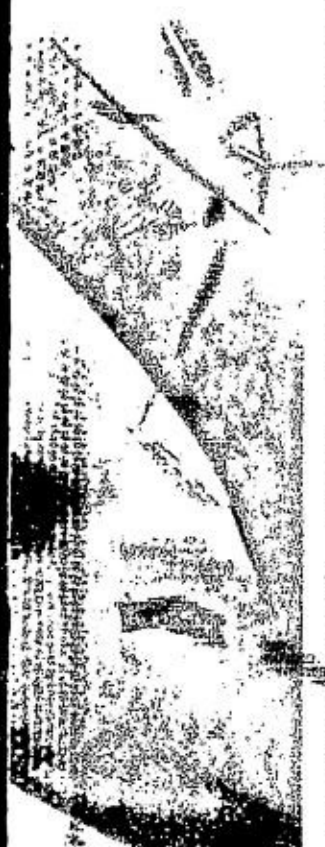


AFP

Spurs' Great Wall may yet beat Yao Ming to NBA ring

bSAN ANTONIO, Texas—Yao Ming made an epic entrance. Wang Zhi Zhi made a historic debut. But Mengke Bateer, the third member of Chinese basketball's "Great Walking Wall", might beat them both to the ultimate prize.

Mengke is on the verge of becoming the first Asian player with a National Basketball Association championship ring.

The seven-foot center is not on the 12-man playoff roster of the San Antonio Spurs, but Mengke would be among those rewarded for his season-long efforts should the Spurs defeat New Jersey in the NBA Finals.'

"I feel sort of sad in a way I'm not on the roster," Mengke said. "But once I'm able to get over that and realize the team is playing for the championship, the sacrifice is worth it.

"It's very unfortunate for me not to play. But being on this team is amazing. Everyone is working hard for the same goal. Playing time or not, we're all on the same team.

"It's the ultimate goal for any player to win a championship. In my second year, to be in the championship, it is a phenomenal thing. To end up with an NBA championship ring is the ultimate dream of every player in the world." Mengke is in stellar company as a Spurs spectator. Australian standout Andrew Gaze was in the same situation during the Spurs' 1999 title run.

"I have really enjoyed the entire season," Mengke said. "It has been a great thing to be on this team with championship hopes. It was a great experience." Mengke's efforts have been somewhat lost in the fanfare over Yao and Wang.

Wang was the first Chinese player in an NBA regular-season game. Mengke was the second. Yao became the first Chinese player selected number one overall in the NBA Draft and was an All-Star this year in his rookie season with Houston.

Mengke's year was less spectacular. He missed pre-season training camp to play for China at the Asian Games. He played only 45 minutes over 12 games with 10 rebounds and nine points, missing 43 games with left leg tendinitis.

But contributions are about more than numbers. Mengke worked in practice against Tim Duncan and David Robinson, making certain the Spurs' stars were pushed and tested so both they and he could achieve their fullest potential.

"I hope I've done my practice well to get everybody to the top level," said Mengke. "I try hard in practice even though I don't play to make others better. Hopefully I had an impact but it's not something I really think about." Mengke, 27, was obtained from Detroit after his rookie season as injury insurance for the big men. He has learned much from their example.

"The skills level would take years in tough practice with them every day to pick it up. They have worked so hard their whole lives," Mengke said. "But the professionalism, the work ethic, all of this I am able to pick up."

"I've been able to gain much important experience. If asked, I will be happy to share it. Me, Yao, Wang have been through Chinese basketball. That provides players a future in the NBA. I hope more young players will take the path." Mengke will return to China after the finals to train with the national team for the Asian championships, although he realizes as an NBA free agent that his chances for a new contract would be helped by playing in US summer leagues.

"The most important thing is to go back to China to train," Mengke said. *AFP*

Kobe Bryant to go under knife for bad shoulder

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers all-star forward Kobe Bryant says it is "inevitable" that he will require offseason surgery to repair an injured right shoulder.

"It seems like it is inevitable," Bryant told a Los Angeles television station on Thursday. "I am pretty sure I will undergo surgery. If I don't have surgery it could get worse." The injury will likely prevent Bryant from playing for the United States team at this summer's Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico August 20-31.

Bryant confirmed Thursday he has a labrum tear in his right shoulder after undergoing an MRI scan.

In a statement issued Thursday, the National Basketball Association club said Bryant will seek a second opinion before making a decision.

But it appears as if Bryant is leaning toward having the surgery as soon as possible.

"I haven't received any second opinions yet, but I think I want to get this taken cared of, come back and double up on my training. Unfortunately, those plans are on hold," Bryant said. "I was looking forward to competing in the games and practising against the fellas. Hopefully, I'll be able to play in the final." Bryant had vowed to work harder than ever this summer after the Lakers' three-year reign as NBA champions was ended by the San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference semi-finals.

"I'm ready to go into the gym tonight and start getting ready for next year," Bryant said after his team was eliminated with a 110-82 loss on May 15.

Bryant originally suffered the injury in game two of the Lakers' first-round playoff series when he was hit by Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves while driving to the basket.

But he continued to play and averaged 32.1 points, 5.1 rebounds and 5.2 assists in the playoffs.

Bryant, who turns 25 in August, was named all-NBA first team for the second straight year.

He ranked second in the league with a career-high 30.0 points per game and also posted career highs with 6.9 rebounds and 5.9 assists. *AFP*

KOBE BRYANT: Surgery is inevitable. AFP

Beckham wants to stay, but Manchester United ponders value of England skipper

LONDON—David Beckham wants to stay at Manchester United. The club looks willing to sell him anyway.

Beckham, English soccer's highest profile player, has been at Old Trafford since he left school 13 years ago and says he doesn't want to leave.

But other European giants such as Spain's Barcelona are chasing him and even the world's richest soccer club may not want to turn down a bid of $49 million.

Joan Laporta, a lawyer who is bidding to become president of Barcelona, said on Thursday he was hopeful of signing Beckham in time for next season if he gets the position. He said he had spoken to the English champion.

"They consider that our project is solid," he told a news conference in Barcelona. "They like it a lot. We are confident that things will go well," Laporta said. "At the moment I cannot say anything more but I trust that we can sign him."

So what are the pros and cons of Beckham staying or leaving?

For Manchester United, the situation and timing couldn't be more difficult.

Next month the club travels to the United States to play a series of friendlies in Seattle, Los Angeles, Giants Stadium, New Jersey and Philadelphia. The tour is aimed at enhancing Man U's profile in a country where soccer takes a back seat to other sports.

To do that without the England captain and its biggest star would take much of the impact away. Beckham is recovering from a broken wrist but is expected to be fit to play.

Then again, how many American sports fans have even heard of David Beckham?

Soccer remains way behind behind football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey in the popularity stakes. Some Americans may recognize Beckham only as the husband of a former Spice Girl.

The couple are currently in America to boost their profiles. Beckham conducted a coaching session with young players at Carson, Calif., on Wednesday.

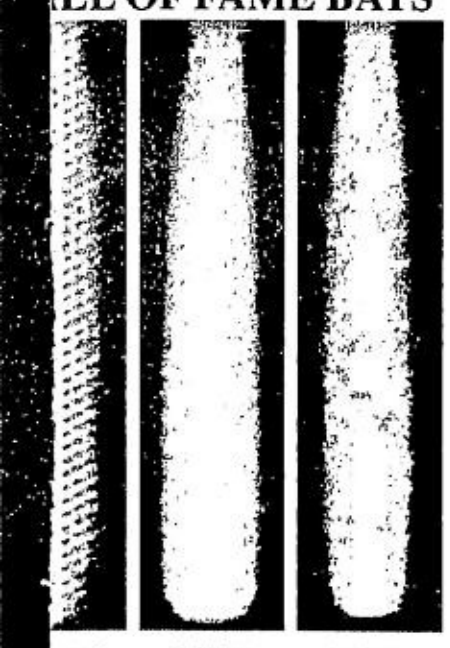
But Beckham's changes of hairstyle, showbiz lifestyle and love of cars—he has four Ferraris, an Aston Martin and a Bentley—have gone largely unnoticed by Americans more interested in Shaquille O'Neal, Sammy Sosa and Wayne Gretzky.

According to business experts, if Beckham were to leave Manchester United, the club's value wouldn't go down.

Charles Trevail of the London-based brand consultancy Futurebrand, says that the brand value of Manchester United—25 percent of its enterprise value—is the highest of any soccer club in Europe at US$272 million. *AP*

alking in Cubs' win

LL OF FAME BATS



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me bats of Chicago Cubs slugger
ut photos. All five showed no signs of
baseball rules. AP

ries sweep and their 18th win from 21 Interleague games.

Lopez rocked Aaron Fultz (1-1), the win going to Jung Bong (5-0), the sixth of seven Atlanta pitchers. Gary Sheffield also struck his 16th homer of the season for the Braves.

Rockies 7, Indians 4 In Denver, Colorado, Larry Walker's fifth-inning single plated the deciding runs as the Rockies defeated the Cleveland Indians 7-4.

It completed a three-game sweep for the Rockies, who are an MLB-best 24-8 at home this season.

Walker tagged CC Sabathia (4-3), who was charged with six of the seven Colorado runs. Jason Jennings (4-5) worked seven innings for the win, striking out six.

In San Diego, the Padres (18-43) recorded a 5-1 thumping of the Detroit Tigers (16-41) to pull a few percentage points ahead of their fellow also-rans in the standings.

Keith Lockhart's sixth-inning homer off Adam Bernero (1-7) proved the difference.

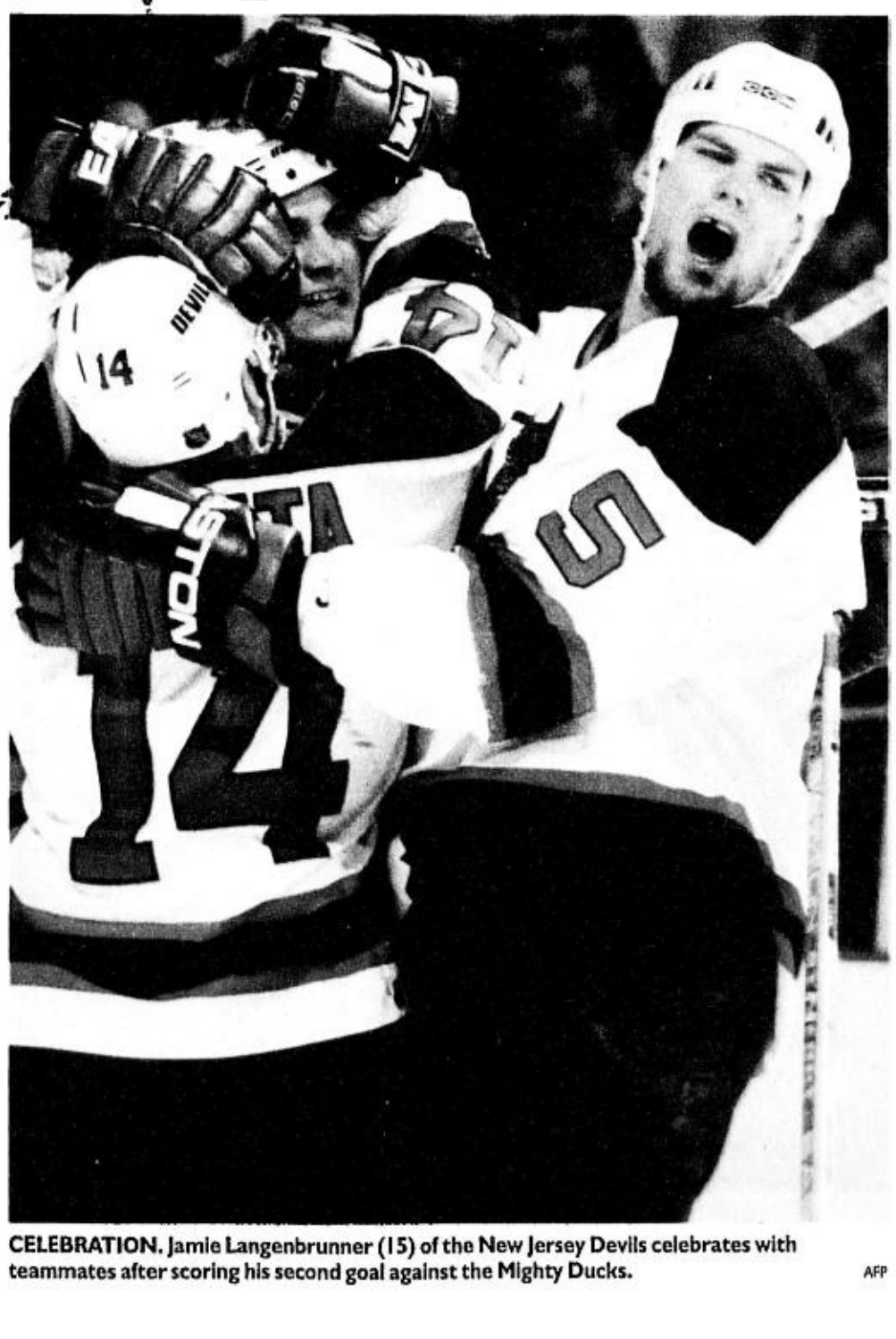
Adam Eaton (2-4) worked seven innings, allowing four hits, for the win.

In Philadelphia, Mike Cameron homered off Jose Mesa (1-4) with two aboard in the top of the ninth inning to give the streaking Seattle Mariners a 5-4 win over the Phillies.

Julio Mateo (1-0) worked two innings in relief of Joel Pineiro to earn the decision.

It was Seattle's ninth straight victory. *Reuters*

Devils prevail, near Stanley Cup title



CELEBRATION. Jamie Langenbrunner (15) of the New Jersey Devils celebrates with teammates after scoring his second goal against the Mighty Ducks. AFP

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—The New Jersey Devils got a series worth of bounces in one game and two goals from Jamie Langenbrunner, moving to within a win of their third championship with a 6-3 victory over Anaheim in game five of the Stanley Cup Finals.

The teams exploded for nine goals on Thursday after combining for 12 in the first four games to match a 58-year-old Stanley Cup finals record.

"Both teams have been taking such a beating about how the scores are so low," Devils centre Scott Gomez said. "It was good for the NHL tonight. I'm sure both teams would disagree, but, hey, that's hockey." New Jersey became the first National Hockey League team in this year's playoffs to score more than three goals against Jean-Sebastien Giguere, although they had help from the Ducks.

One goal went in off the stick off Mike Leclerc, one went off the skate of Devils winger Jay Pandolfo and two others resulted from favourable bounces.

Brian Gionta chipped in a goal and two assists to help New Jersey improve to 11-1 at home in the playoffs.

"I think we're going on the road to a place that wasn't really kind to us so far in the series," said New Jersey's Martin Brodeur, who made 20 saves. "It kind of makes us want to do it." The home team has taken the first five games in the series, but a road win on Saturday would give the Devils the Stanley Cup.

Pandolfo got the go-ahead tally at 9:02 of the second period.

Giguere got his right skate on Gionta's shot from the top of the right faceoff circle, but the rebound hit the right skate of Pandolfo, who was driving to the net.

The puck slid past Giguere and inside the left goalpost, although ref Bill McCreary immediately waved it off.

Only after a video review was Pandolfo credited with his fifth playoff goal and first in eight games.

Langenbrunner struck twice in the third period and leads the league with a career-high 11 goals.

The Devils held the Ducks without a shot for the first 12 1/2 minutes of the final period. *AFP*

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All-Belgian women's finale in French Open

BELGIUM'S Justine Henin-Hardenne clenches her fist after beating top-seeded Serena Williams in the semi-final of the French Open. AFP

PARIS—Roland Garros became a flag-bedecked little corner of Belgium on Thursday as Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters did their country proud, booking their passage to the French Open women's final and guaranteeing their country its first Grand Slam champion.

Of the pair, Henin-Hardenne will go into Saturday's trophy match the more tired–but also possibly the more self-assured having seen off US defending champion and top seed Serena Williams 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, coming back from 2-4 down in the final set in an epic 2-hour 20-minute semifinal battle which wowed a center court whose occupants booed almost every move by the American.

Second seed Clijsters negotiated less of a test in outsmarting unseeded Russian Nadia Petrova, conqueror in the fourth round of Jennifer Capriati, 7-5, 6-1 in 70 minutes.

While the Belgian pair celebrated, Serena ended up in tears in her post-match press conference, allowing the mask of the superhuman athlete to slip just a little.

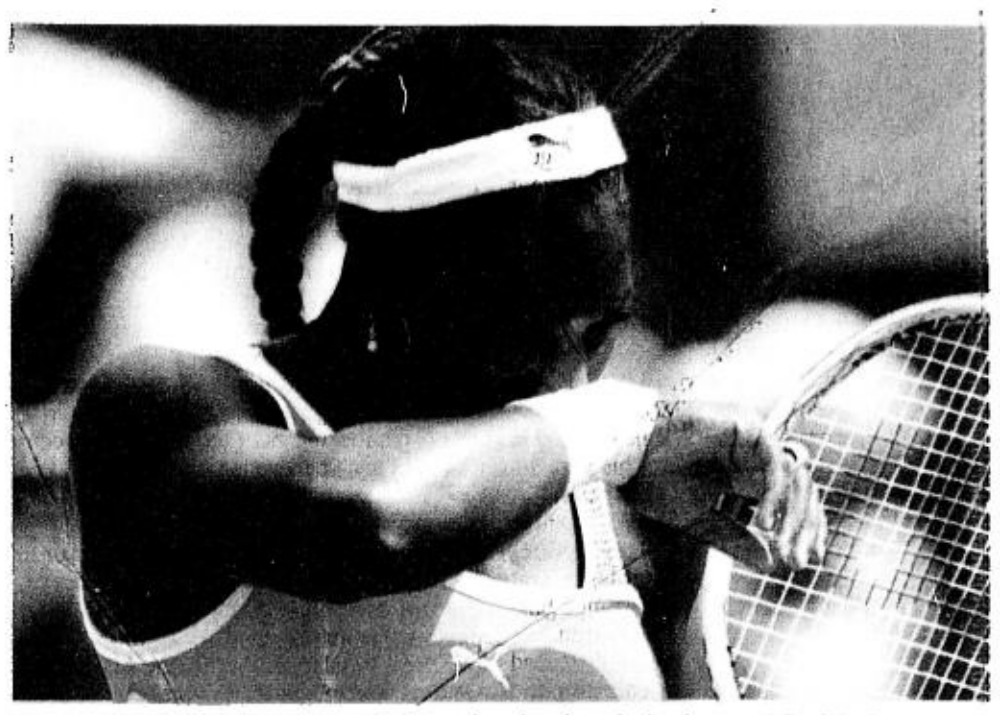
The 21-year-old Henin threw up her arms in the air in triumph when, after a see-saw deciding set, Williams drove wide to concede the contest.

The American then drew a hail of booing from a crowd as she gave her conqueror the briefest of handshakes at the end.

"The level of the match was very, very high–though I briefly panicked at the idea of winning. But I believed in myself and took it point by point as I kept my focus," said Henin-Hardenne, scoring her third career win over the outgoing champion.

"Serena can be very intimidating. It was tough to serve out–at 4-2 down in the third I had some doubts–but it's so good to be into my first final here. I am very happy. It's an emotional moment. I'll have to get my energy back for Saturday.

"It was a wonderful atmosphere. There were so many Belgians here and the French fans were behind me too. Having two Belgians in the final is fantastic.



HEADED FOR THE EXIT. Serena Williams wipes her face during her semi-final duel with Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne. AP

"It's probably one of the most beautiful wins of my career," she added.

For Serena, the emotions were rather different.

"It was a tough crowd out there today, very tough–story of my life, she said with a smile–before bursting into tears.

"From the first point they (the fans) were all over her to do well–so it was hard to get into a rhythm."

"I definitely wasn't nervous–I just didn't do what I needed to do. I probably needed to serve better."

"I've just got to be a little stronger next time," said Serena, who said tennis was still the most important thing in her life.

"Tennis is my number one thing. I don't think I let it slip–I've just got some things I need to work on." Henin took the first set after streaking 3-0 clear but Williams took the second against an opponent who had put a stop to a 21-match winning record in the final at Charleston two months ago.

Henin-Hardenne, who bowed to Clijsters in the 2001 semifinal, said this time she was a tougher proposition.

"I'm feeling much stronger physically and mentally. Kim is number two in the world and she is going to be the favorite on Saturday.

"It's a bit easier to play her on claycourt as her power is not the same as on hardcourt." After Serena took the second set the momentum seemed to be her but in the decider both women's nerves began to fray.

Henin was staring defeat in the face as Serena broke for a 3-1, then 4-2.

But the crowd continued rooting for the underdog and Henin-Hardenne drew inspiration to break back–only to flunk her first opportunity in dropping serve to love. *AFP*

PGA Tour player hurls $1-M one-on-one challenge to Annika

POTOMAC, Maryland—Taking exception to recent remarks by Annika Sorenstam, PGA Tour golfer John Riegger said Thursday he has backing for a $1 million one-on-one challenge against the world's top female golfer.

"We'll have the cash on the tee if she wants to play," Riegger said after the first round of the Capital Open.

Two weeks ago, Sorenstam became the first woman in 58 years to play a PGA Tour event. She shot rounds of 71 and 74 and missed the cut at the Colonial, finishing tied for 96th and ahead of 11 other players.

"She made a statement in her press conference that she had last week, that if she played 30 events on the tour she could finish the top 100 on the money list," Riegger said.

"I've been playing professional golf for 18 years and this is my seventh year on the tour. I've never finished in the top 125. I've always been in the 126 to 150 category, so I just made a challenge to her."

Riegger said the challenge would be stroke play over 18 holes with both players using the same tees. He said Sorenstam could choose the time and place.

"Anywhere, anytime," he said.

Riegger said he was unsure whether his intermediaries have contacted Sorenstam. Sorenstam played Thursday in the LPGA Championship in Wilmington, Delaware, but she finished her round by the time Riegger spoke and was unavailable for comment.

Riegger said he has people in Las Vegas ready to put up the money, but he wouldn't say who they were.

"Who knows where it's going to go?" Riegger said. "It could turn into a pay-per-view event, and neither one of us have to put up any money."

Riegger, who turns 40 next week, is playing in just his fourth PGA Tour event this year, having made the field at the Capital Open as the seventh alternate. He finished in the top 20 in both Houston and New Orleans and failed to make the cut at Pebble Beach.

His best career finish is an eighth-place tie at last year's Honda Classic. His best end-of-year finish on the money list is 140th in 2001.

"I think the general public has a misconception of how hard it is to finish in the top 125, let alone the top 100 in the money list," said Riegger, who shot a 1-over-par 71 Thursday.

"I thought she played great at Colonial. I was pulling for her. I don't have anything against Annika. It's just a statement she had. I just don't feel like that's right. ... I think it's a little far-fetched."

Riegger said he had no idea whether Sorenstam will accept.

"I've got more to lose than her. I'm supposed to beat her, I guess," Riegger said. *AP*

$6-M windfall awaits Funny Cide

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Funny Cide's Triple Crown quest has put a Midas touch on his sire even if the gelding himself has no future in the multi-billion dollar breeding industry where the champs often live out their days.

It has also brought smiles to faces in Kentucky and elsewhere by injecting a much needed shot of life and publicity into a sport and business depressed by uncertain economic times and competition for the wagering dollar.

The chestnut three-year-old would add $6 million to his winnings if he gallops to victory in Saturday's Belmont Stakes and with it the first Triple Crown since Affirmed achieved the feat in 1978.

As a gelding he will never corral the millions of dollars earned by champions at stud, but had he not been gelded–due to an undescended testicle–he might have never won a race, experts say. Castration generally makes a horse sleeker and easier to train.

What Funny Cide will miss has been a windfall for his sire, Distorted Humor, reaping a torrent of stud fees for WinStar Farm near Lexington.

MUDNESS. Jocky Jose Santos comes off the track covered in mud after a race at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y. After riding Funny Cide to wins in this year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness, Santos now is vying for a Triple Crown win in this Saturday's Belmont Stakes. AP

Demand for Distorted Humor's services has increased dramatically, and owners want the stud to breed higher classes of mares, WinStar Farm manager Doug Cauthen said.

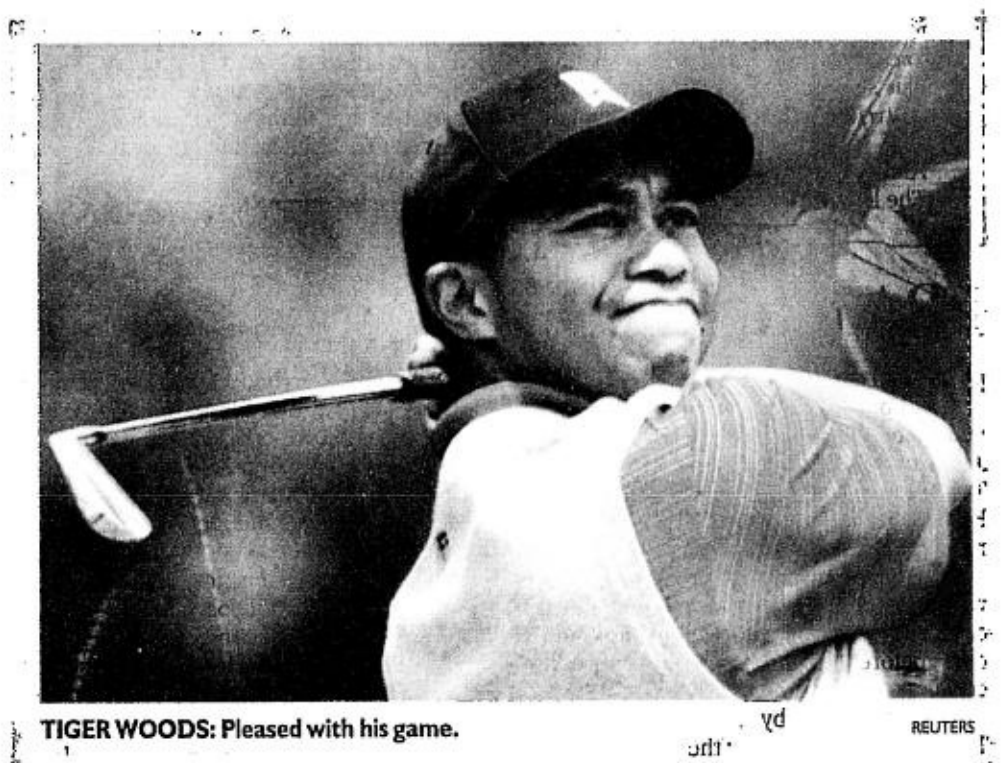
With this year's breeding season winding down, Distorted Humor was already "fully subscribed," Cauthen said.

Unfortunately, Funny Cide's mother–Belle's Good Cide–died this year, he said.

After she was bred to Distorted Humor in Kentucky, she was sent to New York where Funny Cide was foaled as part of a marketing effort to increase Distorted Humor's value. Many racing venues–Kentucky not one of them–run races restricted to horses bred in the state where the race occurs.

Funny Cide was eventually bought by a consortium of rookie New York racing fans for $75,000 and went on his winning way, taking his sire to fame along with him.

"It worked," Cauthen said. *Reuters*



TIGER WOODS: Pleased with his game. REUTERS

Tiger Woods favored again in US Open

LONDON—Tiger Woods does not enjoy the same level of dominance over his rivals as he did two years ago but the defending champion will still start as clear favorite for next week's US Open at Olympia Fields.

Although the 27-year-old American has not won a major title since he clinched last year's tournament by three shots at Bethpage State Park's Black Course, he is convinced his game is now close to where he wants it to be.

"Things are starting to show some real positive signs and I am pleased about that," said the world number one, who has had to reduce his playing schedule this season following knee surgery last December.

"I'm pleased with the way I have been practising, hitting the ball on the range and playing on the golf course. I'm close to getting the swing where I need to have it." Woods will be bidding for a third US Open crown from next Thursday, having blown away the field by a staggering 15 strokes to win his first at Pebble Beach in 2000.

He strung together rounds of 65, 69, 71 and 67 for a record-equalling tournament aggregate of 272, his margin of victory eclipsing the previous championship mark of 11 shots set by Willie Smith in 1899.

Although he could manage only a tie for 12th at Southern Hills the following year, when Retief Goosen triumphed after beating Mark Brooks in a playoff, Woods restored order with a clinical performance at Bethpage Black last year.

The world's outstanding golfer fired a closing 72 to secure the eighth major title of his career, becoming the first player to win the US Open wire-to-wire on two occasions.

Always meticulous in his preparations for the majors, Woods played Olympia Fields Country Club's North Course for the first time last week. He expects a typical US Open challenge when the second major of the year starts.

"It's a different golf course and there are a lot of angles," he said. "You have to shape the ball and you have to make a decision on your carries, what line you are going to take.

"At Bethpage, it was straight ahead and go ahead, go ahead, and speed it. I think I will be using more three-woods than anything else (off the tee)." The par-70 North Course layout, unusually, has no par-five holes on its second nine and provides a notoriously tough finish with both the par-three 17th and par-four 18th played into the prevailing wind.

"I think it's going to force everybody to play more defensive," said Woods. "I think that's what a US Open does." In keeping with US Open tradition, the title-holder will be playing the first two rounds with the British Open champion, Ernie Els, and the US amateur champion, Ricky Barnes.

This means the world's top two players will be going head-to-head over the first two days.

"It's always fun playing with a great player like Ernie," said Woods. "But he's going to be playing his own game and we're going to be in our own world.

"He knows how to win US Opens...and he's done it twice.

I'm sure he'll go out there and play his own game and so will I." *Reuters*

Losing grip of it

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I'M worried about the PBA.

Oh, no, it's not the declining crowd, the uncertainty of the LG from NBN and IBC, the Viva bop, the Saldana Shame, the ineffectiveness of some refs, the mediocre-maker format, the Fil-Ams. It is its very existence I'm concerned about. It is losing its grip of it.

You know what kind of league this used to be?

It was a shoot-them-all-down league. Roll the dice. Deal 'em, fellas. Bet your aces, if not your asses. Who you wanna call, the cops or the cop-busters? You're dead, buddy a.k.a. BAP. Who says it can't be done? The lion that was Leo yelled: "Get dem outta here!"

That's the way it was. You know, this is the league that built monuments, not mopes. Crispa. Toyota. SMB. Alaska. Jaworski. Fernandez. Co. Cezar. Guidaben. Arnaiz. Adornado. Dalupan. This was the league that made icons out of its founders. Prieto. Coseteng. Floro. Silverio. Yenko. Salud. Marquez. Bernardino. Barrios even.

This was the league that tore down fears, barriers, the league that transformed basketball from a mere pastime to religion.

This is a church whose pulpit preached opium of the friendly variety. This is a place that was made into a house of worship by devotees willing to unveil their cloak of inhibition: Basketball is not just a game, it is the nation's staple food next only to rice.

Long before "Bayan ng Superstars" was coined, the league teemed with men known more for valor than value.

Long after Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones sang "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," games guaranteed satisfaction or your money back.

It had its critics, but the PBA laughed at them. Told them they can go plant camote if they can't shut their mouths. No observer status. If they aren't in, surrender the cards. Don't say a word. Scram. The sign at the door reads, "Men at Work."

In 1975, when order became disorder and the game's fate appeared uncertain, the reliables took over, drove out the undesirables and put the PBA in orbit.

The old dogs thundered with fury. Released hacks to heckle. Let loose hucksters to hustle their way back into backroom deals. So, Leo the Lion said OK and next bared his fangs. In no time, he established records and plowed back much of the league's profits into revenues for the city. In no time, he made the league the NBA of Asia.

And now, this.

The league teeters on the edge of a cliff.

It's like bases and basins all over again: Bases out or we become Asia's catch basin of aggression. Dilemma. Any way you choose, there is neither high nor low road. The pavement is gutter already. Any choice puts you to reverse gear.

The lever gets stuck.

Like Dracula attacking in the dead of night, the drug menace has invaded the league; it now wants to stay there for good like *apitong* and *yakal* in virgin forest.

Chaplin or Canuplin, it's not funny.

Clinton or Coby, it's apolitical.

Jordan or Jaworski, it's un-sportsmanlike.

Don't take my word for it. Those found positive for substance abuse will contest the findings all the way to the Supreme Court or Magellan, if he were around today, will be forced to renounce his Portuguese citizenship in thy Queen's name.

I remember, during a party in 1977, I heard the late Fred Luarca, San Miguel Beer in hand, ask Leo Prieto what the league's founding commissioner thought was the PBA all about. I remember Leo saying, "Frankly my Fred, the PBA is all about character."

It was that character that put the league to where it is now: Success.

It is that character that will–God forbid–put the league to where it seemed headed now: Sleep.

A character steeped in honor and dignity cannot afford any longer to wallow in disrepute and misery.

There was a solution: Dispatched were the troops that would, hopefully, shock the shabu troopers. Alas, they hadn't called in the marines, instead they called in the marauders. The solution soon became part of the problem itself. Who needs drug testing?

Not even Noli Eala needs that.

The code words the league used to live by were, "We have men to match the nation's mountains." And I thought they were engraved in granite. Not even in stone, I guess. So that now, we have men not matching but snatching away those mountains.

And I'm just starting to warm up my seat.

PBA told how to do . . . From page A23

prohibited drugs.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala had slapped indefinite suspensions on Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot, Noli Locsin and Long David of Talk N Text, Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña after flunking the tests.

The next procedure, Regalado said, is to review the policies formulated and educate each and everyone who will go through the tests before implementing the entire program.

"Educate them by conducting seminars. The players should know the effects of drugs, what drugs should be avoided and knowledge of what medication and supplement which have a similar test result to shabu," said Regalado.

He added a grace period of about one month should be implemented while simultaneously monitoring the health of the players.

"Those who will fail the test within that span will be privately notified and urged to stop using the drug or face harsh consequences," said Regalado.

Only after everybody knows the program like the palm of their hands should the drug-testing scheme, whether mandatory or random, be launched, Regalado said.

"After the education and the grace period, sorry *na lang sa mahuhuli*. We will start the program and those who fail must face the consequences of their actions. Rules are rules, you know," said Regalado.

The PBA, in partnership with the Department of Health, obviously ignored these steps as the humiliated players decried possible flaws in the procedure.

Regalado said that, by using international standards, a waiver, known as a chain of custody form, should be filled up by the players after undergoing the test.

A small portion in the form, asking for the kind of medication taken prior to the drug test, should be filled up promptly, he added.

Limpot, who was the most vocal among the rest of the alleged drug cheats, said there was no such form and they were only asked to sign a piece of paper without asking further information whatsoever.

Change system now . . . From page A23

of Representatives for giving the league the opportunity to answer questions on its campaign against illegal drugs.

"The league is confident that all misconceptions about our anti-drug program have been answered in the hearings," Eala said.

Eala said he believes "the league's drug testing campaign stood the test."

Jaworski felt otherwise.

"Look, we are speaking here of the players' future, of their reputation having been tarnished and their families besmirched so why wait for some other time," Jaworski told his audience in the session sponsored by Photokina Marketing.

"I say there were errors in the process because how can you explain the fact that Jun Limpot, apart from being positive (for) illegal substance, was also found to be positive (for) medication intended to cure epilepsy. *Aba'y kung* epileptic *'yang si* Limpot, *hindi makakapaglaro 'yan ng* basketball," he stressed.

Jaworski said the players were not given due process before their respective suspensions were announced to the public.

To prove his point, Jaworski cited the Bill of Rights provision in the Constitution, particularly sections 14 and 17, guaranteeing that no person shall be held to answer for something without due process.

Barbers, who also appeared at the session, agreed with his Jaworski.

He however explained that the Senate doesn't have any power over the PBA, it being a private organization.

"*Walang* power *ang Senado na magbigay ng* sanction *sa isang pribadong organisasyon*. Ours is only recommendatory and if the PBA would not heed our recommendation, the concerned players can seek redress from the courts if they believe their rights have been violated," Barbers said.

Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, medical director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine and the only Asian member of the International Basketball Federation Medical Council said the Fiba and even the International Olympic Committee have different approaches in drug control.

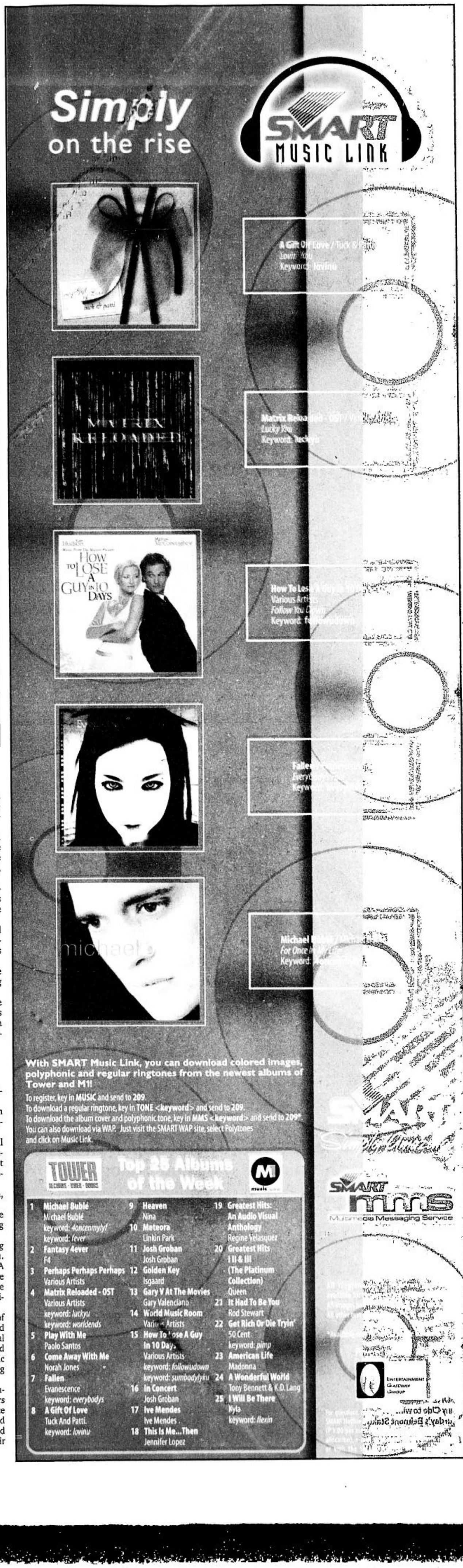
"Both Fiba and the IOC take into consideration the status of athletes as inadvertent users because they take substances to enhance their performance. The PBA system should have been more refined. Those who tested positive are also given leeway to explain their side," Canlas said.

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A26

ANSWERS

1. False (Manny is kuya)
2. Serena (1999 US Open women's singles)
3. Willlams-BMW
4. Zsuzsa (the oldest Polgar sister)
5. British Open
6. Javelin throw
7. Tierra (Edmund, Marty, and Adonis)



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BIR exceeds May collection target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has surpassed its revenue target for the month of May, with preliminary figures showing that it had collected P36.36 billion against a goal of P36.348 billion.

This brought the total revenue collection for the first five months of the year to P176.67 billion, or 10.42 percent higher than the collection figure during the same period last year, cementing hopes that the budget deficit for the month would be lower than expected.

The May collection also exceeded by P5.47 billion last year's P30.89 billion level.

It would be the second month in a row that the tax agency, which has been riddled with allegations of corruption and inefficiency, would have met its monthly target.

Poor tax collection has been blamed as the main reason for the country's runaway budget deficit that has hurt investor confidence and cast doubts on the government's ability to control public finances.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. recently said that April would be the make-or-break month for the BIR as it was when most of income tax payments are remitted.

April collection stood at P50.4 billion compared with the P47.42-billion target.

The BIR, which accounts for 60 to 70 percent of the government's total collections, said the higher May collection was mainly attributed to the increase in the collection of the Large Taxpayers Service division, which constituted the bulk of revenue generated by the BIR.

It said revenue generated by this division improved by 9.5 percent or P1.8 billion.

The bureau also noted that the collection growth was also due to the improved performance of its 19 regional offices whose collection from January to May increased by 30.5 percent.

The BIR said that with its total collection for January to May, it only has to post a 7.5-percent monthly collection growth, or 2.9 percentage points lower than the required growth figure in order to meet the P424-billion revenue that it is tasked to collect for the entire year.

The increased collection for this year was a marked improvement in the performance of the BIR, which is hard pressed to meet its revenue goal for the year. Its declining tax effort (the share of tax collection to gross domestic product) since 1997 has often been blamed for the country's burgeoning budget shortfall, which last year exceeded P200 billion.

The government's second-biggest revenue agency, the customs bureau, had said it also exceeded its monthly target as it collected a preliminary P8.8 billion in the first 21 days of May, beyond its goal of P8.62 billion.

Market sentiment was buoyed earlier this week when a source close to the government said slower expenditures saw the preliminary deficit for May at P7 billion, sharply below the P20-billion deficit target for the month.

With a report from Reuters

UBS Warburg revises peso outlook to 53:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

UBS Warburg Asia Ltd. has revised its yearend outlook on the peso-dollar exchange rate to 53 to $1 after earlier projecting that the local currency could hit an all time low of 57 against the greenback.

In a memorandum to National Treasurer Sergio Edeza dated June 3, UBS Warburg said its daily market commentary as of May 29 had "finetuned" its outlook on the peso to 53, which was in line with the 52-53 to $1 trading range expected by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for this year.

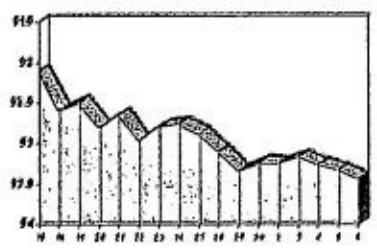
In its May 2003 publication of Asian Economic and Strategy Perspectives, the investment bank had said the local currency could fall to 57 this year and further to 58 next year.

The grim forecast drew flak from government economic managers.

In its daily snapshot, UBS Warburg said its new currency forecast for this year was driven not so much by a stronger peso outlook, but rather by its view of a stronger euro by year's end.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱53.45 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 6, 2003

¥117.98 = $1

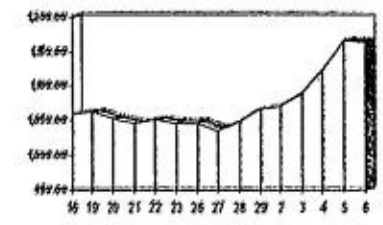
As of 5 p.m., June 6, 2003

GOLD: **$367.00-367.50**

per ounce Hong Kong, June 6, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Profit-taking halts rally

SHARE prices closed 0.17 percent lower yesterday due to profit-taking after the market hit an 11-month high on Thursday, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 2.02 points to 1,163.84. Losses in blue chips Metropolitan Bank and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. weighed on the main index. The index had risen 8.9 percent over the past three sessions.

Dealers said the market was due for a correction after posting substantial gains but the short- to medium-term outlook remained generally positive on the back of recent strong economic data.

"The market is just taking a breather after a rally and a substantial uptick in volume. It is just normal for stocks to consolidate," said Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities.

"The market's rally happened too fast, too soon. If it breaks the 1,170 points level next week, then perhaps we're back in business and foreign investors are likely to continue coming in," Castillo said.

"A lot of stocks are already at overbought levels. A healthy correction should not harm the market's bullish sentiment," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

Del Castillo said the central bank's decision Thursday to further raise liquidity in the system by easing monetary policy should eventually translate to increased inflows in the stock market.

However, he said several concerns remain that could cap the market's upside in the coming sessions.

"The main concerns are the current weakness in the peso and the political squabbling in the run-up to next year's presidential elections," he said.

Volume fell to 369.16 million shares worth P866.8 million from 435.35 million shares worth P911.54 million on Thursday.

Still, bargain hunting pushed gainers ahead of decliners 36 to 31, while 42 issues were unchanged.

Globe Telecom bucked the trend to rise P10 to P625. SM Prime Holdings and Ayala Corp. were both unchanged at P5.50 and P4.65. ***AFP, AP***

J.D. Power ranks Ford's Quality Care #1 for the second year in a row.

J.D. Power and Associates, a global marketing information services firm that surveys millions of consumers on products and services, has elected to bestow the top slot once more to Quality Care, Ford's brand of service that guarantees your vehicles world-class after-sales maintenance.

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Shower grapes

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PLAYERS in the stock market are always on the lookout for new surefire ways (i.e. astrology and geomancy) to tell where prices are heading.

Today they are testing a newfound indicator. Whenever somebody in SARS, este, Hong Kong badmouths PLDT in local media, PLDT stock price is likely to shoot up.

That somebody is a certain Ron Brown, a lawyer, who is the former corporate secretary of the Hong Kong-based First Pacific, a major stockholder of PLDT.

He comes out in local media a lot, lecturing everybody on the supposed problems of PLDT and First Pacific, attacking his former boss Manny Pangilinan.

Yet, despite Ron's bile release, the stock price of PLDT continues to climb. I don't know if it tells us something about the credibility of Ron or even his PR girl.

In the market, they are saying that whenever Ron badmouths Manny, no questions asked, you buy PLDT. It is not exactly cheating but something close to it.

***

AS I said, PLDT shares are up by some 40 percent from their low last year. Thus I can understand the, ah, "concern" over PLDT in those media reports quoting Ron.

PLDT is a public company. It is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. Local media perhaps feels obliged to carry Ron's dire foreboding about PLDT.

As for their reports on First Pacific, however, what does First Pacific have to do with the price of egg or coffin or whatever in China?

Really, the only connection I can see is Manny. And Ron simply wants to attack Manny, pointing out Manny's problems in both PLDT and First Pacific.

He forgets that everybody here in Asia actually suffered from the Asian financial meltdown. It was a regional thing. PLDT and First Pacific did not invent it.

Now the stock prices of both companies are stabilizing, just as soon as it becomes certain that Manny will be back in control. Hello, this is the market speaking, attorney.

***

FOR who in his right mind can believe somebody like Ron Brown, who stays in Hong Kong while he conducts teleconferences with "well-chosen" media here?

I know that a lot of players in the local stock market would rather hear the latest from Madame Auring instead.

And so when Ron badmouths PLDT and First Pacific, and thus Manny as well, I am not surprised that nobody takes him seriously.

Ron cannot even do his telephone press conference himself. He must hire a PR girl, ah, to "manage" it for him. Who pays for the PR service, is a big question.

In the market, they just know that the corporate secretary, even if he is well connected with local media, hardly gets involved in the management of any corporation.

I think the most challenging role of the corporate secretary is, well, you have to take down notes during board meetings and fall asleep afterwards.

***

MOREOVER, in that epic battle for control of PLDT last year, featuring Manny versus the Gokongwei group, Ron led the attack against Manny.

Of course it was a big gamble for Ron. At that time, Manny was still Ron's boss. In fact, it was Manny who hired Ron.

Now some friendly reports say that Ron actually resigned from First Pacific last April, purportedly because he did not like Manny's business plan.

But in the stock market, they are saying that if, in a big corporate battle, you took the wrong side, you better be prepared to resign.

That is probably what happened to Ron—he was forced to resign, if he was not actually fired out. Manny won, you see, and Ron lost.

But here comes Ron badmouthing Manny now. The market can only take the recent shower of grapes from Ron as so sour, they are only good to make vinegar with.

***

SAN Miguel chair and CEO Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has a little request with the Supreme Court concerning Justice Antonio Carpio.

As everybody in business knows, Carpio is one of the founders of THE Firm, which is said to be very very close to this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

And Danding's request is, would the Supreme Court please disqualify Carpio from taking any part in a particular case.

That is the case of the government, claiming that the shares in Bulletin Publishing Corp. which are under Danding's name were ill-gotten.

The government already won in the Sandiganbayan. Danding is appealing the decision before the Supreme Court.

Luckily for the government, Carpio does not like Danding at all. And Carpio has said so in public. Well, at least on paper.

***

DANDING'S counsel Estelito Mendoza pointed out an article in the Far Eastern Economic Review way back in 1993.

It was written by Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, who was at that time the Review's bureau chief in Manila, focusing on—who else—Carpio.

Carpio was the presidential legal counsel of Kuya Eddie. Why the Kuya decided to part ways with Carpio, everybody in business already knows, Danding included.

Anyway, excerpts from that Review article read:

"Carpio presents himself not merely as Ramos' lawyer, but as the field commander of the president's shock troops in reforming the country...

"The major initiatives in which he has played a role include the drive against Eduardo Cojuangco...

"He is confident, for example, the government will ultimately checkmate Cojuangco, adding 'We will soon see the crumbling of his empire.'"

***

THUS, Mendoza tells the Supreme Court that Carpio's slip is showing.

Danding claims that he, together with several other people, held the Bulletin shares as a trustee for the late publisher Hans Menzi.

In other words, Danding did not own them. How could he then have, well, "gotten" them, ill or otherwise, if somebody else owned them?

And how on earth could those shares have been "ill-gotten," based on Danding's argument, when Hans Menzi owned them even before the former late dictator Ferdinand Marcos become President?

In the government case, moreover, there was no evidence that Marcos has, ahh, "gotten" those shares from Menzi.

And finally, even assuming that Marcos actually has, er, "gotten" those shares, shouldn't the government show at least the money trail?

I don't know if, for answers to those argument, you can go ask Carpio!

BSP eases tier-2 float rules

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has relaxed the guidelines governing domestic tier 2 capital raising activities of banks, clearing the roadblocks to the P4.5-billion domestic bond offering planned by the Yuchengcos' Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

In an interview, BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board had agreed in its meeting on Thursday to finetune the guidelines.

"We clarified some points so that RCBC's offering can push through," Reyes said.

For instance, Reyes said the board agreed to remove the provision prohibiting the registry bank from acting as the selling agent for the offering.

The Monetary Board also allowed the selling bank's trust department to invest or purchase the capital notes provided that the funds used were those under a "directed trust" and not a common trust fund (CTF).

A directed trust fund means the trustee can immediately authorize the purchases of securities or investments.

A CTF refers to funds owned by several clients which are pooled to tap the opportunities available to a much larger fund.

RCBC's planned offering is the first tier-2 capital raising activity that will tap the domestic market, and will therefore be used as a benchmark for future local issuances.

Two other big banks—Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Equitable PCI Bank—successfully raised tier-2 capital from the international market in the past.

Tier-1 capital-raising refers to outright equity infusion while tier-2 refers to secondary capital which is essentially unsecured subordinated debt.

RCBC and the BSP are discussing the formula that will be used for the benchmarking of the offering.

RCBC's planned float has a 10-year maturity but it can be redeemed on the fifth year.

RCBC treasurer Jaime Panganiban said the step-up formula proposed by the bank was either a five-year FXTN Mart 1 (fixed rate treasury note -Mart 1) plus 100 basis points or the original rate upon issuance plus 200 basis points, whichever is higher.

MART 1 is a series of indices for government securities.

Since the planned offering can be redeemed on the fifth year, Panganiban said the formula would "make it more expensive for the issuer to roll over."

The costly rollover under the formula, he said, would make the issuance attractive to investors.

RCBC is planning to issue the bond by the end of this month.

Landco invests in hotel management firm

By Elena R. Torrijos

LANDCO Pacific Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., together with its Punta Fuego partner Roxaco Land Corp., has made an equity investment in Fil-Barcelo Hotels and Properties Management Co., the Philippine licensee of international hotel management company Barcelo Hotels and Resorts.

In a statement, Landco said the investment in Fil-Barcelo "signals a pronounced shift by the two parties to diversify further into the tourism and hospitality industries and eventually become significant players in this service sector."

The two groups, which are partners in Peninsula de Punta Fuego, a high-end residential and resort development in Batangas, plan to assimilate appropriate technology and skills required to profitably operate hotel and resort properties based on international standards.

At present, Fil-Barcelo manages the Taal Vista Lodge in Tagaytay, the Pearl Farm Island Hotel in Davao, the Carabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo, the Asturias hotel in Puerto Princesa and the Eagle Point Hotel in Anilao, Batangas.

It plans to manage other hotels in various parts of the country and other parts of Asia such as Thailand, Indonesia and China.

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts is a major hotel management company based in Palma de Majorca Spain and operates hotel and resort properties in Europe, North and South America as well as the Philippines.

Landco is a property developer specializing in high-end residential resorts, subdivisions, club or golf course development, shopping centers, office buildings and master-planned commercial business centers located in key provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Roxaco is a wholly owned subsidiary and property development arm of Roxas and Company. It was formed for the purpose of acquiring real estate for investment, development and/or sale and is the registered owner of several hundred hectares of land in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Filinvest issuing ₱1.5B worth of debt papers

FILINVEST Land Inc., a publicly listed property developer controlled by the Gotianun family, plans to issue P1.5 billion in long-term commercial paper in the first quarter of 2004 primarily to refinance a P2-billion LTCP maturing in November next year.

The balance will be covered by internally generated funds.

"We're looking at existing (project) inventory and repackaging them to reduce capital expenditure, but get higher turnover," FLI first vice president Fely Ramos said yesterday following the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

For this year, the company plans to spend P800 million for capital expenditure, of which P60 million would be earmarked for the computerization of the company's operations. Ramos said the capital outlay would be financed by bank loans, which will largely come from state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

In the meantime, FLI said sales in the first five months rose by around 40 percent to P900 million on strong demand for its middle-income housing projects.

Ramos said sales were on track to meet this year's target ranging between P2 billion and P2.2 billion.

In 2002, sales of Filinvest Land reached P1.65 billion.

Ramos said the company's bottom line growth would be coming mainly from the strong performance of its affiliate Filinvest Alabang Inc., which has developed a sprawling corporate city south of Manila.

She said Filinvest Alabang already sold four lots worth P325 million, which will be booked in the second quarter.

In 2002, Filinvest Land posted P5.9 million in earnings from its share in Filinvest Alabang's profit.

Filinvest Development Corp., FLI's parent firm, disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Commission's compliance and enforcement department had recommended the imposition of a P27.89-million fine on the company for alleged violation of Section 27 and 23 of the Securities Regulation Code or the rule that prohibits insider trading.

The commission's review unit under the office of the general counsel had asked FDC to explain its side in 15 days, FDC said.

In February last year, FLI announced that it had agreed to issue a P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds to Reco Grandhomes, a subsidiary of GIC Real Estate Pte Ltd. of Singapore at a conversion price of as much as P1.875 per share, or way below the prevailing market price at that time. *Elena R. Torrijos*

INTEREST RATES

June 06, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 6-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 5-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.875	6.9417
3 Months	6.9058	7.1205
6 Months	7.4808	7.6636
1 Year	7.7327	8.1461
2 Years	8.4365	8.7942
3 Years	9.3731	9.5769
4 Years	10.0462	10.2135
5 Years	10.5654	10.7462
7 Years	11.1519	11.3058
10 Years	11.6192	11.6827
20 Years	11.9789	12.0308
25 Years	12.3635	12.4115

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 6, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.25	15,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	16.5	16	16.25	120,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	45.5	44	45.5	2,079,600
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	30	30	194,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29	29	564,900
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	22.5	22.5	264,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	21,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	36,500
Security Bank Corp.	11.25	11.25	10.75	11	287,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	17,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1525	1525	1525	1525	540
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1130	1120	1125	3,910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15.5	15.5	15	15	34,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	1,500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	615	630	615	625	388,230
Ipeople Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	11,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	2,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3.2	3	3.2	107,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.34	8,000,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	465	465	462.5	462.5	67,200
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7.2	7.3	7	7.1	1,280,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	1,225,600
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	3,216,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	25,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	221,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	2,730,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	165,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.84	0.89	0.84	0.88	1,270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	110,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	91,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	248,000
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	54.5	221,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64.5	63.5	64	186,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.3	70,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	30,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.75	4.55	4.65	5,569,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	70,000
Alc Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	31,500,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	178,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	12,890,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.26	7,680,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	158,000
Ionics Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	250,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	37,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.62	0.7	0.62	0.7	11,020,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	3,250,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	620,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.7	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	150,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	151,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16	16	16	16	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	2,780,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.34	1,650,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	450,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15.5	15.5	14.5	14.75	523,100
DMCI Holdings, Inc- Pref.	775	775	775	775	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	20,010,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.14	1,100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.175	0.205	29,330,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.94	29,820,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	1,400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Primex Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	73,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	30,980,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1	1	1	1	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0044	0.004	0.0042	80,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,700,000
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	6,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to July 30, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of June 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

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HOUSE of Investments Inc. has denied that Mapua Institute of Technology was in the process of negotiating for an acquisition of a nursing school. The company is still studying which courses to add to its educational programs.

***

ELECTED directors of IVANTAGE Corp. were William Chua, Valentino Sy, Adolfo Suzarra, Ignacio Gimenez, Jerry Tiu, Violeta Luym, Juan Chua, Dexter Tiu, Roberto Lorayes and Willy Ocier.

***

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 20, 5 p.m. at the Human Development Center. Also, the company said it would sell to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd its stake in both Panasonic Communications Corp. of the Philippines and Panasonic Communications and Imaging Corp. of the Philippines.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 4 p.m. at the Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47/F of Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 4 p.m. at the Mondragon Ballroom, 2/F of Mondragon House, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 6, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.844381	1.000000	53.356000
Japan	Yen	0.007174	0.008496	0.453300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.402685	1.661200	88.635000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108277	0.128233	6.842000
Switzerland	Franc	0.649423	0.769112	41.036700
Canada	Dollar	0.628914	0.744823	39.740800
Singapore	Dollar	0.491634	0.582242	31.066100
Australia	Dollar	0.563108	0.666889	35.582500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.239856	2.652661	141.535400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225163	0.266660	14.227900
Brunei	Dollar	0.490207	0.580552	30.975900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020361	0.024114	1.286600
UAE	Dirham	0.229894	0.272264	14.526900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.184300	63.189500
Argentina	Peso	0.299426	0.354610	18.920600
Brazil	Real	0.291668	0.345423	18.430400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134670	0.159490	8.509700
India	Rupee	0.018066	0.021395	1.141600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222235	0.263193	14.042900
Mexico	New Peso	0.080192	0.094971	5.067300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.490491	0.580889	30.993900
Norway	Kroner	0.122887	0.145535	7.765200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014659	0.017361	0.926300
South Africa	Rand	0.106546	0.126183	6.732600
Korea	Won	0.000703	0.000833	0.044400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109661	0.129872	6.929500
Syria	Pound	0.020105	0.023810	1.270400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024418	0.028918	1.542900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000529	0.000627	0.033500

Vehicle sales jumped 19.2% in first 5 months

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VEHICLE sales continued to grow but at a slower pace through May this year as speculation on tax and price changes tapered off in the last two months, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi).

Campi reported that industry sales rose 19.2 percent to 37,985 units from January to May this year from 31,859 units during the same period last year. Sales growth peaked at over 30 percent in February and March this year as uncertainty over the automotive tax reforms and the impact on vehicle prices dictated buyers' decision.

Truck Manufacturers Association Inc. president Elizabeth H. Lee said confusion over the timing and exact excise tax rate to be implemented has dampened the initial buying spree as most buyers have adopted a wait-and-see mode until new prices have been set under the new rules.

Commercial vehicle sales rose 33.7 percent to 30,692 units in the first five months this year from 22,950 units during the same period last year.

Demand for Asian utility vehicles and sport utility vehicles surged 55 percent and 36 percent, respectively, in the first five months this year as buyers advanced their purchases ahead of the new taxes that would raise prices of these popular vehicles. Both AUVs and SUVs are currently tax-exempt under the 10-seater rule, which will be abolished under the tax reforms being worked out in Congress.

Passenger car sales slipped 18.1 percent to 7,293 units from January to May this year from 8,909 units a year ago. Buyers have postponed their purchases of new sedan models as they expected prices to fall significantly with lower taxes under the new rates. This has resulted in a steep drop in market share of passenger cars to a record 19 percent in the first five months.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. remained as the leading assembler in both passenger cars and commercial vehicles with a total market share of 28 percent or 10,892 units sold in the first five months.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was second with 17.6 percent or 6,696 units sold and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was third with 16.9 percent or 6,431 units sold.

SLOWDOWN IN FOREX INFLOW

BSP expects BOP deficit of $1.13B this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas expects the country's balance-of-payment (BOP) deficit to balloon further to $1.13 billion by year's end, a reversal of the $660-million surplus posted in 2002.

The latest estimate was worse than the $500-million shortfall earlier expected by the BSP and a turnaround from the original BOP surplus target of $100-$200 million for the year.

BSP documents released yesterday also said the country's gross international reserves (GIR) dipped to $16.04 billion as of end-May from $16.21 billion in April, mainly due to the repayments of maturing debts by the national government and the BSP.

The revaluation of gold holdings, however, moderated the decline in the reserves, the BSP said.

Meanwhile, the bleeding BOP position expected for the year was partly due to foreign exchange outflow arising from other maturing debts of the public sector.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

Aside from foreign loan repayments and the government's decision to stick to local borrowings, the BOP deficit is expected from slower inflow of foreign exchange from trade and investments.

The current account, the key component of the BOP that includes trade transactions, is expected to chalk up a surplus of only $2.36 billion, much lower than the $4.2 billion in 2002.

With the weak global environment, inflow from direct investments is also expected to falter, although portfolio investments are expected to pick up.

Based on the BSP's forecast, direct investments to the Philippines are likely to slow down by 7.2 percent to $1.03 billion from $1.11 billion last year.

On the other hand, portfolio investments, or those placed in fixed income and equities, are seen rising by 25.6 percent to $2.86 billion this year from $2.28 billion in 2002.

SEC sets seminars on corporate governance in Cebu, Bacolod

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will be conducting corporate governance seminars in the provinces as part of its continuing program to spread and intensify the practices of good corporate governance.

The SEC has scheduled a seminar in Bacolod City on June 26 at the L'Fisher Hotel and another one in Cebu City on July 31, 2003. A third seminar will be held in Manila on Aug. 29 this year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho will be the guest speaker in the Bacolod seminar.

Speakers for all the seminars include Dr. Jesus Estanislao from the Institute of Corporate Directors, Victor Lim from the Asian Institute of Management, Francisco Ed. Lim from the ACCRA Law Office and Leonardo Matignas Jr. from SGV & Co.

"The Commission believes that the practice of good governance in corporate entities brings about greater transparency and accountability, ensuring the protection of stakeholders and the general public as a whole," the SEC said.

By the end of the seminar, the SEC said participants would be able to discuss an effective corporate governance framework; identify the functions and responsibilities of the different players and other stakeholders in corporate governance; familiarize oneself with the leading practices on corporate governance.

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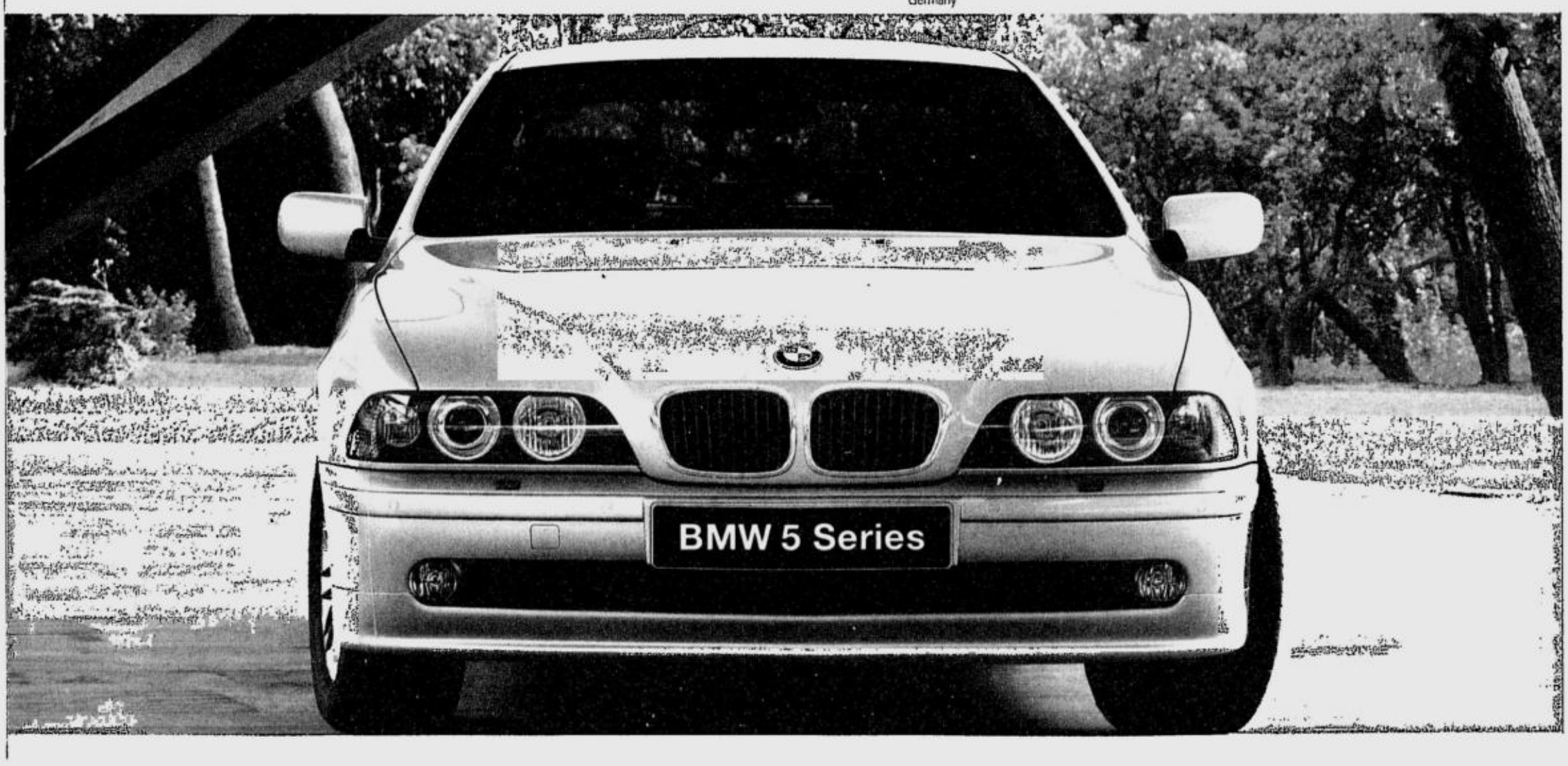

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People, Events & Products

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor Aries Espinosa

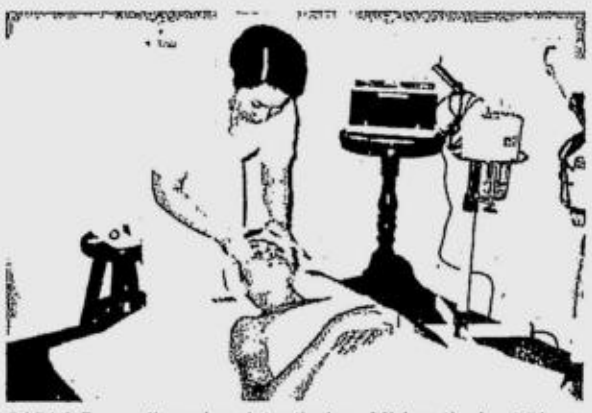
Phytomer at The Spa

THE HOT and humid weather adds more stress to everyone's already hectic work week. What better way to spend the onset of one's weekend than amidst a sea-inspired setting at The Spa, from Phytomer, the world leader in marine cosmetics.

March 8 marked the launch of this newest brand of Luxasia through a tie up with The Spa in Bel-Air, Makati. Special female guests, including writers and editors of different publications, and celebrities Miriam Quiambao and Angel Aquino, enjoyed various treatments in a spa soiree where Phytomer products were used.

Phytomer offers a unique approach to skin care that is true and natural. Based on the premise that the epidermis and algae have behavioral similarities, the Phytomer face and body care products allow access to the re-mineralizing and balancing virtues of the sea. Skin achieves a quality of exceptional tolerance against damage caused by the environment, keeping it beautiful and supple.

Come and experience the natural sensations of Phytomer facial treatments at The Spa Acropolis, Alabang, Bel-Air and Greenbelt (6342848, 8503490). Embrace the riches of the sea in the comfort of your homes through Phytomer Home Care products which are exclusively available at Rustan's Department Store Makati and Shangrila Plaza Mall. For inquiries call 729-3226 up to 28, 729-1031



CARLA Enage (brand assistant) gives Miriam the best Phytomer treatment there is, one by her own expert hands.

INQUIRER AND GMA7 FOR SEMINAR SERIES, TAKE TWO.

GMA Network Inc. has again agreed to be the exclusive television partner of the Inquirer Seminar Series, with the upcoming theme MediaMorphosis: Developing Society Through Mass Media. At the MOA signing were (from left): GMA corporate communication officer-in-charge Butch Raquel, chair lawyer Felipe Gozon, Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and corporate relations manager Celine Madamba. Interested students may email mediamorphosis2003@yahoo.com or text 0917-5269887.

NHC TOP DEALERS CITED

Nokia Home Communications (NHC) recently recognized its top dealers, distributors, and salespersons during an awarding ceremony at the Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong. Attendees of the event came from key cities of the country. They market the Nokia 8830S and the Nokia 8630S set-top-boxes. Both are user-friendly satellite receivers for encoded pay TV and free digital channels. The products feature a built in modem for interactive service such as pay-per-view and games. Also recently launched was the NaviBars features of the Nokia 8630S that allows viewers to easily navigate and organize digital TV, radio and interactive content through their TV. Photo shows (from left) Nokia home communications general manager Martin Fernandez handing over the Top Dealer Award for Visayas to Remy Uy of Cellcom World Communications. Remy was also a recipient of the Top Salespersons Award.

GE Appliances garners awards, lauds CYA Industries

ON THE heels of garnering awards and distinctions from several local bodies, GE Appliances recently praised its local distributor for its biggest regional award yet. "Once again, we stand proud yet with this prestigious distinction - the only Platinum SuperBrand for refrigeration in the Philippines," remarked Hamilton Hung, Market Development Director for GE Appliances While in regular cases there are 2 or 3 SuperBrand Awardees per category, GE was the only awardee in its category due to the lopsidedness of the survey tallies in its favor. No other brand in the category qualified for the award. Hung adds, "we are pleased and at the same time humbled knowing that it would not have been possible without our loyal customers and of course, our distributor in the Philippines, CYA Industries. We are quite overwhelmed by the amount of success that our brand has achieved in such a short time with them." CYA Industries re-launched GE Appliances in the Philippines in October 2001.

Overseas, GE is regarded as one of the top 5 International brands alongside the likes of Coca-cola, Microsoft and IBM (according to Interbrand and BusinessWeek). It has also been named the world's most respected company by the Financial Times and America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand by the Louis-Harris Poll.

The regional and international awards mirror the brand's local sales performance in particular, the BPI Installment Madness held thrice a year at the Sunken Area in Makati's Glorietta. The exhibition is widely regarded as the Philippine appliance industry's barometer in determining the brands and products preferred by consumers. In the most recent edition of the exhibit, GE was for the 5th straight time named the top white line up there with top brown line Sony.

Last May 24, GE was also cited as the Most Outstanding Refrigerator Brand in the Annual National Consumers Excelence Awards (Anca). Now on its 18th year, the Anca is organized by the Parangal ng Bayan Foundation which is acknowledged as one of the country's biggest organization which gives due recognition to outstanding Filipinos and world-class achievers from various fields of endeavor. The event also confers a special tribute to outstanding companies / manufacturers, products and services that have made excellent contributions in shaping the well-being of the Philippine market.

Almost simultaneously, GE was also recognized as the Most Outstanding Refrigerator Manufacturer by the Organization for Peace and Progressive Oriented (Oppo). Known for its "Parangal sa Pamilyang Pilipino (Recognition of the Filipino Family)," the OPPO's 2003 Products and Services Excellence Awards is bestowed on outstanding consumer products and manufacturers as well as outstanding agencies and companies based on random surveys and opinion polls.

Jeho Ryu , GE Appliances General Manager, notes "it is gratifying to see that GE is recognized not only by international organizations but by local ones as well. It is a sign that we are doing a good job of extending a better life for people across the globe."

TOP PR EXECUTIVE RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Asia Pacific Excellence Awards (Apea) recently honored outstanding individuals with significant achievements in business, public service, education, sports, arts and culture and other professional fields. Among the awardees in the Golden Scroll category for business and industry is PR executive, Nancy Harel, president and CEO of Nancy Harel and Associates Inc. (Nhai). A prominent figure in the world of advertising and PR, Harel's notable career spans almost three decades. Harel helped build formidable brands such as Eight O'Clock, Hapee Toothpaste, and New Zealand Milk products like Anlene and Anchor. Shown in photo during the awarding ceremonies are: Jonathan Navea, (Apea) president / project chair; Hon. Joseph Daraman of Laguna, Apea screening committee co-chair; Nancy Harel; and president Zorayde Alonto, Apea nomination committee co-chair.

COCA-COLA LIGHT TASTE DRIVE WINNER

For Frederick Sly of Binondo, Manila, the winning taste of Coca-Cola Light turned into a brand new BMW 318I Sport from Prestige Cars Makati. Frederick, who won the car by simply scratching a card in the recent Coca-Cola Light Taste Drive consumer promotion, is shown receiving the ceremonial key from Coca-Cola promo and activation associate Michelle Rocha-Umali and Prestige Cars Makati account manager Derrick Manila.

BITS Clips

'Empower' trade exhibit

THE JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (Jica), the Department of Trade and Industry and the Board of Investments, have joined together to conduct the first environmental-technology-oriented trade exhibit this June 9 at the Rigodon Ballroom Manila Peninsula Hotel Makati; and on June 10 at the SM Megamall Bldg. A., activity center. Entitled 'Empower', the trade exhibit aims to formulate an action plan on Industrial Environment Management (IEM) as well as bolster and strengthen the capacities of IEM of both government agencies and private industrial associations. This year's theme focuses on "Respecting Environment for Industrial Competitiveness." For inquiries regarding the event, interested parties may call the secretariat at 897-6682, 890-9308 local 225 and 227, and 895-9239 or Events-Media Marketing, its event manager, at 751-5200, 752-3936 or 892-4465.

Floral design expert to conduct workshops

INTERNATIONAL floral design master Piet Vellekoop shares his expertise on flower arranging in a two-day seminar-workshop dubbed "A Challenge to Creativity" on June 10 to 11 at the Celebrity Sports Club, Capitol Hills Drive, Old Balara, Diliman, QC. The event is sponsored by The Netherlands Management Cooperation Program (Nederland Programma Uitzending Managers) and Agrikultura Pilipina Inc., is open to all flower shop operators, floral designers and arrangers, as well as flower enthusiasts and hobbyists. Highlighting the event will be the "First Andre Awards for Excellence in Floral Design," a flower arranging competition for amateur and professional designers, on June 12. For tickets and inquiries visit or call Agrikultura Pilipina Inc. at 96 New York St., Cubao, QC, tel. nos. 439-7931 / 439-7932; and 1605 Laon Laan St., Sampaloc Manila, tel. nos. 741-1000 / 741-6967.

Independence Day Activity

ENGLISH teacher Richard Signey delivers talks on "Pnoyspik: Language and Nationalism" before the Rotary Club of San Juan, June 11 at Club Pilipino; and Northwestern University Illinois Alumni chapter, June 18, Manila Polo Club. The talks are an offshoot of the highly successful "Pnoyspik in English" which dissected Pinoyisms and Taglish, and was launched at Powerbooks Makati last summer. The activity which will go on a campus tour this year feature actors Ricky Davao, Ces Quesada, Alma Concepcion, Adriana Agcaoili, Jacques Borlaza, director Behn Cervantes, tenor Ramon Acoymo, and Signey.

MAPUA-NAMA BOARD OF JUDGES SELECTS TOM 2003 AWARDEES

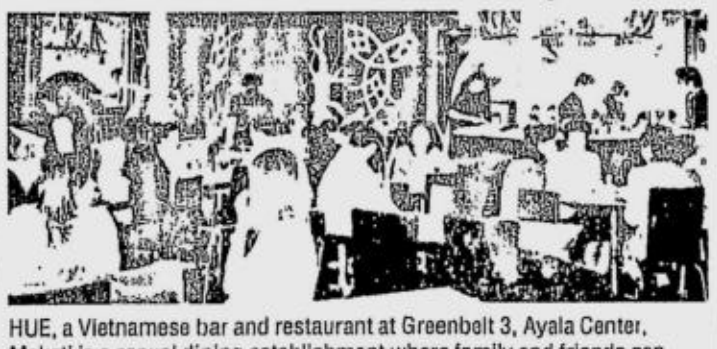
The Mapua-Nama 2003 The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) board of judges headed by engineer Oscar de Venecia, president of Basic Consolidated Inc. and former president of the National Association of Mapua Alumni (Nama), officially selected recently The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) awardees for 2003. Shown in photo (seated from left) are: dean Miriam Necesito representing Mapua Institute of Technology; engineer Priscila Tagle representing the faculty of Mapua; de Venecia; director Leticia Rosario-Guevara of the Mapua Alumni Liaison Office and engineer Alfonso Supetran, Nama president. Standing (from left) are: engineers Jaime Cancio; Joel Marciano; Ernesto Villanueva, president, Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans Inc. (Fomi); and Cesar Castro, director-in-charge, Nama 2003 TOM search committee.

TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH HOLDS TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY

A tree planting activity was held in Toyota Commonwealth located at 5B Old Balara Avenue, Quezon City last April 12. The event which was spearheaded by customer relations manager Stella Advincula and her staff Leeanne Mendiola and Mae Dueñas, was part of the CS-event program of Toyota Commonwealth. The tree planting was conceptualized to help intensify awareness on environmental management. It was participated in by Toyota customers namely: Nita Del Rosario, Monette Melencio, Juan Ascan, Francisco Maestro, Lualhati Lopez, Dhey Nabago, Paula Nicole Ligon, Dennis De Los Reyes, Francis and Patrick Jhon Santiago, Ana Ma. Esperanza Ragragio, Mario Narciso and lastly Martinelli and Marian Eliza Cabaya. It was Toyota Commonwealth's contribution on how to care for Mother Earth.

ProductFiles

Fine flavors the Vietnamese way



HUE, a Vietnamese bar and restaurant at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati is a casual dining establishment where family and friends can gather for meals al fresco or indoors. Clients have exclaimed over the reasonable prices and large servings offered at this restaurant which will take diners on an enthralling culinary journey. Vietnamese cuisine boasts of a vibrant heritage, with flavors that take the best the Asian region has to offer, and refines them. Each dish takes on subtle flavors, colors and aromas that please the senses. With its moderate use of herbs and spices, diners will feel that everything has been cooked just right. The menu also boasts of a large selection of vegetarian dishes. So visit Hue and experience the taste that is Vietnam.

ALPERZ SATISFIED CLIENT

Photo shows TV and sports personality Marc Nelson, host of 'Sports Unlimited', as he poses before his newly painted Honda Accord, treated with the true double 2k urethane magic paint at Alperz, giving his car an excellent showroom wetlook shine. Alperz Enterprises Inc. offers the lowest price in town and the highest quality products and services, from the true double 2k urethane magic paint technology to auto detailing, paintless dent repair, engine detailing plus poly-urethane permacoat protection, undercoating services (3M rubberized anti-rust), to a guarantee long-lasting paint protection and power car wash with vacuum services. It is located at 2208 Pasong Tamo St. Makati City, (beside Waltermart, in front of Don Bosco). They can be reached at 812-1611 and 575-8075 or visit their website at www.autopaintmagic.com.

A CONSTRUCTION worker stands on scaffolding before an advertising billboard outside a shopping mall in Shanghai. The rapidly rising euro has led to a windfall for Chinese exporters and is likely to give the economy a sizeable boost this year, state media and economists said on Wednesday. AFP

Trade lib to bring in $300B to East Asian economies–WB

SINGAPORE—East Asia must shift its focus when negotiating free-trade pacts to opening up its agriculture and services sectors if it wants to reap $300 billion in annual benefits and reduce poverty, the World Bank said Friday.

As the region moves toward closer trade and economic links through bilateral or regional accords, economies must at the same time take steps to streamline customs procedures and build the infrastructure needed to ease the flow of goods, the bank said.

East Asia can pursue these market-opening measures within the region or between countries while still being a part of the global negotiating process under the World Trade Organization (WTO), it said in a study released here.

"Our tariffs are already quite low in the region on trade in goods. And so the scope for additional gains by pushing them down still further is more limited," said Homi Kharas, who co-edited the study on East Asian integration.

"The really big benefits now will come from these other areas which have received less attention in previous (trade) rounds and therefore have assumed more importance today," said Kharas, the bank's chief economist for the region.

The bank identified five focus areas for liberalization for the region to achieve the biggest benefits, especially in reducing the number of people living on less than $2 a day—the poverty threshold.

These are agriculture, services, logistics, trade facilitation and linking trade policy to development policy.

"The stakes involved are high," said World Bank vice president for East Asia and the Pacific Jemal-ud-din Kassum.

If countries in the region implement these liberalization measures in the sectors identified, they stand to reap annual benefits of roughly $300 billion, or 10 percent of gross domestic product, within a decade.

"Benefits could even be higher if a global trade agreement is reached," Kassum said.

If this amount is evenly shared in the region, it would reduce poverty by 50 million people, he added.

Kharas said it was "more than okay" for East Asia to push ahead with bilateral and regional pacts as "this is really the right time."

But the focus should be on the priority areas.

East Asia groups China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

These include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Singapore has signed free-trade deals with the United States, Australia, Japan and New Zealand and is in talks with several other countries.

A proposed free-trade area between Asean and China aimed for completion within the decade promises to be the world's largest free-trade zone covering 1.8 billion people and a combined GDP of $2 trillion.

Asean also plans a similar economic partnership with Japan and there is talk about an East Asia-wide free-trade zone.

The World Bank said that in all these negotiations, opening up the agriculture sector could have the most significant impact on poverty.

More than 90 percent of the population in Cambodia and Vietnam, 75 percent in Indonesia and roughly 70 percent in the Philippines depend on agriculture as their main source of livelihood, it said.

Freeing up the services sector could increase the region's competitiveness, it said.

Poor transport infrastructure and costly bureaucratic procedures must also be streamlined to facilitate the flow of goods, and strong policies protecting intellectual property should be put in place to encourage innovation. *AFP*

Asian stocks mixed, US jobs data awaited

SINGAPORE—Asian stock markets were mixed on Friday with some investors locking in profits after strong gains this week and others awaiting US payroll data later in the day for more clues on the economic recovery story.

The euro remained firm against the dollar at about $1.1855 after ticking up in the aftermath of Thursday's widely anticipated half-point interest rate cut by the European Central Bank.

Gold prices slipped after surging on Thursday on the strength of the euro, and oil futures nudged higher on more talk of Opec supply cuts.

After a week of the best gains seen this year, Asian stock markets sobered ahead of the weekend.

Japan's Nikkei average was up a slight 0.19 percent at midday around its best levels since late February.

But markets in Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan were marginally down or flat. South Korea was closed for a holiday.

"Investors are unwinding long positions ahead of the weekend and given that we've been rising almost unchecked since last week," said Toshihiko Matsuno, senior strategist at SMBC Friend Securities in Tokyo.

But sizable statistical revisions and uncertainty about how quickly the recent rebound in confidence will induce firms to begin hiring again have left many in the market not knowing what to expect.

Economists had forecast 420,000 new jobless claims and the weekly figure raised some anxiety before the monthly report.

To offset the gloom, an upbeat sales forecast by Intel Corp. offered cheer to technology companies in Asia. Intel is the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer and its forecasts are widely viewed as an indicator of demand in the PC industry. *Reuters*

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325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
Other Cars					
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	6k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,870,000.00	1,820,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,760,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1998	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	835,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00
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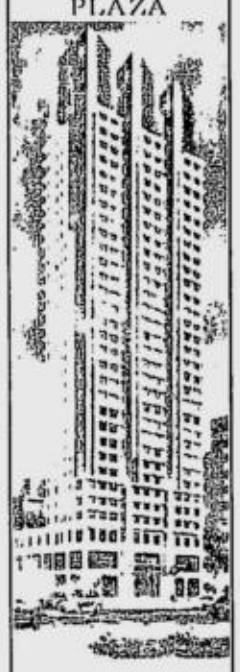

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NR QC HALL Big BNew #117 MATATAG ST. P5.8M B'ful 7242629

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PROJ.2 P4M Bnew 4BR 5TB 29MARANG St. 7242629

SAUYO QC P2.8M 3BR 2TB bnew nr M'dnao 413-3313

SIKATUNA VILL Bnew B'ful 3dty 5BR 7TB Big family rm #23 Mapagkumbaba 7242629

WHITE PLAINS 632m²
w/2storey house 5BR 4car grge big lawn for swimming pool. P19M negotiable. Pls call 9114705/4649 & look for Tita or Chris 0919-4014983

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ANTIPOLO LA-1927m² FA-141 & 31m² 3br 2tb Brgy Dalig DBO Only T696-1900 PBM Neg

Cainta Duplex 1.5M 8979541

LA-346 FA-200 3BR 1.5M Mabolo Dr. 0917-5218338

o. leaving Greenland S Matea la200 2cg stum vnice 2.7M: 2974948 / 09178485521

VISTA VERDE la397 fa230 5.6M 09167826569•6471960

CAVITE

CAVITE P320T Diamond Village 2BR 1TB 413-3313

LA MEDITERRANEA 2Sty 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m² FA80m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAGUNA

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 2Sty FA210m² LA78m² P2M Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Binan 3T/mo 9390299

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12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

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BNEW 2/3BDR 109sqm Beside MLA GOLF Res'l Condo
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LEON GUINTO
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P3.415M 8903461 loc 34

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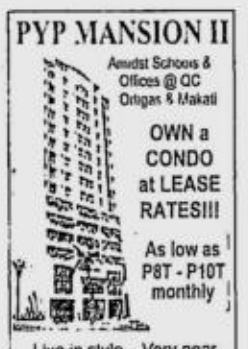

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1unit U/D 2BR 60m² 7145514

LOT

KALOOCAN

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RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

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MARIKINA PARANG 100m² up30%DP nr Chrch 413-3313

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m² fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc 25/27

LOT

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

BAGUIO

BAGUIO 73/351m² Km-6 ALTA VERDE Subd 4133313

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS LOTS P28-36T/m² 300; 384; 650m² 6337601-03

CAPITOL EST-2 150m² ea. P7300/sqm 0917-8339395

VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS 1077m² 7242629

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

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LAGUNA

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SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

1.3HA RICEFIELD CANAMAN CAM.SUR 4754977 PERLA

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P250/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

•ZAMBALES LOT•
Mango Farm 0919-2221766

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

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NR BANAWE OFC/WHSE 2,500m² @ P100 715-3544 414-3705 / 0917-5271188

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QUEZON CITY

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PROJECT2 09198195026

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STA. CRUZ 1BD 1T&B 2540714

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PARANAQUE

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2BR #4 Malingap St 9215797

78D 11th Av Cubao 4272560

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641/29

Cubao P3.5 Sld Lady 9124428

SAN JUAN

91A.Luna 2BR Spacious 9T/mo. good loc'n 6461603

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NR BANAWE OFC/WHSE 2,500m² @ P100 715-3544 414-3705 / 0917-5271188

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Cityland Ultra Pasig 686-8582

BEDSPACE

Professionals M/F Cuenca Pasay 8315026 / 5500254

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BUSINESS RENTAL

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given that affidavit of adjudication of estate of the late Rowena R. Morera has been executed by the sole heir Rowelito R. Morera as per Doc. No. 69, Page No. 14, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Alberto A. Aguja, Jr. of Laguna (PDI-June 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO Jr. Has been extrajucially settled among his heirs on 03 April 2002 before Notary Public Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Pinas City as per Doc No. 141, Page No. 029, Book No. 2, Series of 2002.
(PDI May 24, 31 & June 7, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROMEO D. RUIVIVAR has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs under deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate dated May 15, 2003 as per Doc 47, Page 10, Book V, Series of 2003 before notary public Zenaida O. Balmas of Q.C.
(PDI- May 31, June 7, & 14 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Prepaid CN ABOITIZ ONE, INC. w/series no. H0956901-H0956950C; H064611-H0649650C H0956975-H0957000C. Transaction entered using above series will not be honored by the company.
(PDI- June 7, 2003)

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3. Can work under pressure.
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INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for **sale** are the assets formerly belonging to **DAVAO TIMBER CORPORATION (DATICOR)** consisting of **buildings, other land improvements, machinery & equipment, furniture & office equipment** located at Mati, Davao Oriental, as well as **11,948 sq.m. land** and buildings located at Maco, Compostela Valley Province.

The assets are offered in two (2) separate lots, as follows:

Lot	Location	Particulars	Indicative Price
I	Mati, Davao Oriental	Buildings, other land improvements, machinery & equipment, furniture & office equipment	P2,733,280.00
II	Maco, Compostela Valley Province	Land (11,948 sq.m.) and buildings	P1,644,000.00

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on **26 June 2003 at 3:00 p.m.** at the PMO Conference Room.

Interested parties may request for a duly authenticated copies of the **Specific Rules on Negotiated Sale (SRNS), Negotiated Sale Offer Form (NSOF)** together with the **Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC)** for a nominal fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

In the event that the sale becomes a failure, offers may be received on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

For more information, please call Ms. Maureen B. Valiente at 818-4733/817-8762.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PRIVATIZATION OFFICER 893-1209 FAX 893-3453; Asset Management & Custodianship 8937096 FAX 893-2290; Finance and Administration 893-1886 Fax 818-4591 Legal 893-2351 Fax 818-0906; Marketing 810-7562 Fax 818-0906

CANTERS FOR SALE

The following vehicles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

Vehicle	Indicative Price
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FUSO Canter with water tank	PhP 200,000
Mitsubishi Canter Dropside	Php 200,000

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 or Mr. Ariel Matubis at 885-3706. Offers should be sent to the above officers at Building E, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than June 16, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject for approval by company's approving authority.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
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P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
Approved Budget : Php1,784,716.80

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on August 6, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Prequalification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, SRA Annex Building of the same address starting June 9 and the deadline for submission of said requirements shall be on June 23

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on July 8, 2003. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00/set.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on July 23, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.

For inquiries, please call:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or defect therein and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to SRA.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - June 7 & 14, 2003)

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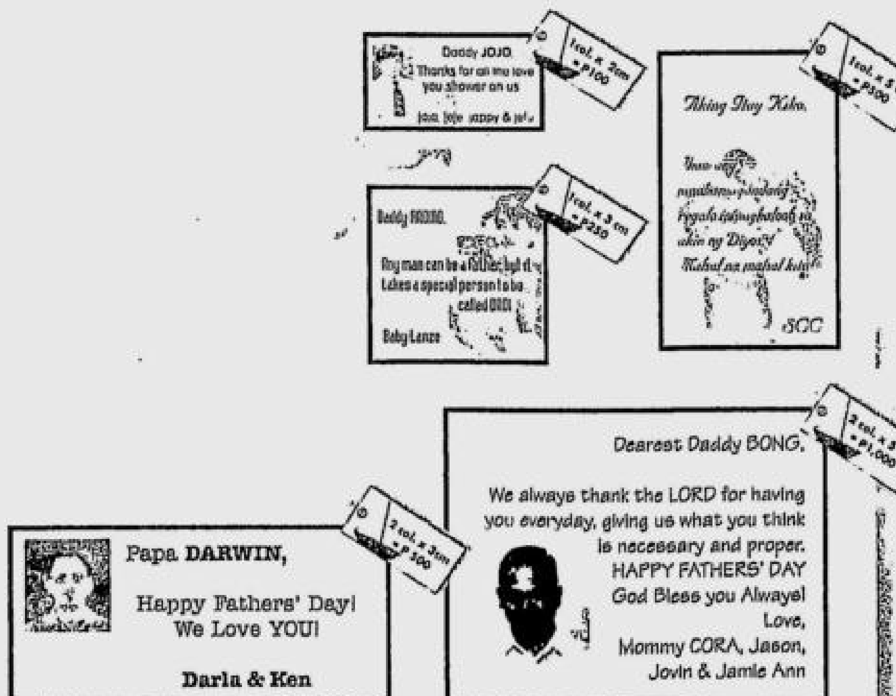

For more info, you may visit or call any INQUIRER branch.

MAKATI (MAIN): PASONG TAMO AVE. COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS MAKATI CITY ☎ 897-8808 loc. 514, 518 ☎ 897-8425(Night) Fax 897-8425 e-mail: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
Iraq Reconstruction Program

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Numerous reports have reached the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) that recruitment entities, both licensed and unlicensed, have been luring applicants with promise of work in Iraq.

The public is advised that to date there are no verified manpower requests or job orders from foreign principals or contractors for construction or service projects in Iraq. Interested applicants who would like to register for possible placement may visit the Iraq desk at POEA or its regional offices and extension units and the DOLE regional offices.

Prospective applicants and the public in general are advised to refrain from entertaining any recruitment offer for Iraq, unless these have been verified with the POEA. On the other hand, unscrupulous and illegal recruiters are warned from taking advantage of the current Iraq market situation lest they be charged with Illegal Recruitment (IR), a crime punishable by 6 years and 1 day to 12 years for simple IR and 12 years and 1 day to life imprisonment for syndicated and large scale IR.

(PDI – June 7, 2003)

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sbma SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed project are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the public bidding of the below-listed project:

A. PROJECT : **ASPHALT CONCRETE OVERLAY OF CHARLIE TAXIWAY AT SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

B. Services to be performed include:

Furnish deliver, lay, roll and compact asphalt concrete for the overlay of Charlie Taxiway at Subic Bay International Airport. Other works includes cleaning and preparation of asphalt surface to be overlaid, application of tack coat, curing and the subsequent overlaying of 2" thick asphalt concrete to the specified grade and testing of the laid asphalt for conformity to the required quality. The construction method and schedules of overlaying shall be subject to the approval of the SBMA Representative.

At the end of every working period the area shall be cleaned and prepared for airport operations. Temporary asphalt ramps shall be provided for the operation of the airport at the end of every working period. However, this would be subsequently removed during \the continuation of the construction.

Miscellaneous items as required for construction in airports shall be provided and the applicable rules and regulations shall be strictly followed. Detailed scope of work/services for the project will be provided upon issuance of bidding documents to all eligible contractors.

C. Approved Budget Cost: **PHP 9,999,917.69**

D. Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all eligible contractors/ suppliers. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the following documents:

1. Article of Incorporation, if applicable
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (stamped by BIR or its duly accredited/authorized banks, certified true copy
7. PCAB Principal Qualification and Category:
   General Engineering B"
   King of Project and Respective Ranges
   Roads, Highway, Pavement, Bridges "MA"
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Similar Projects (Past/Present)

E. Deadline of submission of Application for Eligibility to bid is on ***June 16, 2003*** at 5:00 p.m. at BAC Secretariat Office, PPMD, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

F. Time and date of submission/opening of bids and pre-Bid conference shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost for bid documents.

All parties relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the Procurement of Supplies and Materials.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 31 & June 7, 2003)

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sbma SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

May 26, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed items/projects:

A. ITEMS TO BID

	QTY.	U/I	ITEMS DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET COST
I	1	LOT	SUPPLY AND MATERIALS FOR REHABILITATION OF KALAYAAN TENNIS COURT	P 679,370.00
II	1	LOT	SERVICES AND MATERIALS TO FURNISH, DELIVER, LAY, ROLL & CORRECT ASPHALT CEMENT AND ASPHALT TENNIS COURT, COLOR COATING WITH 3MM THICK CUSHION RESURF ACER FOR REHABILITATION OF KALAYAAN TENNIS COURT	P 1,498,285.00
III	1	UN	RUBBER FLYING INFLATABLE BOAT	P 1,258,400.00
IV	1	LOT	BATTERY PACK FOR HANDHELD RADIOS	P 855,700.00

B. Complete specification/detailed technical description of the subject items to bid will be provided upon issuance of bidding documents to all eligible suppliers/contractors.

C. Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to all Contractors with the following requirements:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation
3. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
4. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
5. Valid Mayor's Permit
6. BIR VAT Registration
7. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (stamped received by BIR or its duly accredited/authorized banks, certified true copy)
8. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement (for the items to bid)
9. PCAB License (for Construction Services, Category General Engineering B)
10. Company PROFILE
11. List of Products Carried
12. List of Clients

D. Deadline of submission of Accomplished for Eligibility to bid: **June 11, 2003, 5:00 p.m.** at BAC Secretariat Office, PPMD, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

E. Time and date of Pre-Bid Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids, shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the procurement of Supplies and Materials.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman

(PDI - May 31 & June 7, 2003)

INVITATION FOR BID
ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Loan No. 7153PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

June 4, 2003

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.
2. The ARMM Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of *one package or on all the packages* of the following subprojects:

Package 1.	Project Code	:	SRI-P03-001
	Title	:	Center for Development Planning and Information Communication Technology
	Project Location	:	ARMM Compound, Cotabato City
Package 2.	Project Code	:	SRI-P03-002
	Title	:	Polloc Base Port
	Project Location	:	Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao
Package 3.	Project Code	:	SRI-P04-001
	Title	:	Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sulu Provincial Hospital
	Project Location	:	Jolo, Sulu

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City.
4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 5,000 or its equivalent in a fully-convertible currency, *for each package*. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after Bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend and to be held at ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash amount stated hereunder.
6. This Invitation for Bid shall be governed by the following schedule:

Packages & Code Number	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bid	Bid Security in the Form of Cash Only
1. Package # 01-SRI-P03-001	6-09-03 to 6-18-03	6-18-03 at 10.00 AM	7-03-03 at 10.00 AM	P443,900.00
2. Package # 02-SRI-P03-002	6-09-03 to 6-18-03	6-18-03 at 10.00 AM	7-03-03 at 10.00 AM	P262,200.00
3. Package # 02-SRI-P04-001	6-23-03 to 7-07-03	7-07-03 at 10.00 AM	7-22-03 at 10.00 AM	P381,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2679
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: asf@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) **NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR**
Executive Director

(PDI - June 4 & 7, 2003)

Philippine Air Force
Headquarters Air Logistics and Support Command
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
(Air Force City)
Angeles City, Pampanga

SBAC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the lease of three (3) SF-260M aircraft for the Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) of the Philippine Air Force Flying School.

Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the appropriate government agencies. Eligibility requirements/forms will be made available to contractors upon submission of the below listed required documents to the Senior Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Secretariat, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga:

1. Letter of Intent to participate in the bidding
2. Certificate of DTI/SFC/CDA Registration

The approved budget for the lease contract is P21M php.

The particulars and schedule of activities for the bidding process will be made available to prospective bidders on **09 June 2003 (Monday)** at the SBAC Secretariat at the above stated address.

The two (2) envelopes system as required by RA 9184, series of 2003 shall apply in the bidding. Bids must be submitted on or before **21 July 2003**.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held on **04 July 2003** at the ALSC Conference Room, ALSC, Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

For particulars, you may contact the SBAC Secretariat, DM office, 2nd Floor, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga or at Tel. No. 045-599-2014-2015 local 6689/ 09192353229.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The Philippine Air Force neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **COL LORETO G SUAREZ PAF (GSC)**
Chairman, Senior Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 7 & 14, 2003)

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- Producing VCDs and DVDs with Premiere 6.5

June 05, 2003
- Advanced Photoshop Techniques
- Professional Retouching Techniques
- 3D Studio Max
- Combustion with Cleaner
- Editing Essentials in Final Cut Pro 3
- Compositing, Color Correction & Special Effects with Final Cut Pro 3

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- Inside FreeHand MX
- Designing a Dynamic Logo System
- Creating Explosive Web Graphics with Fireworks
- Energizing Flash MX Projects with Action Script
- Flash for Corporate Presentation
- Flash Cartooning

June 07, 2003
- Integrating Illustrator & Photoshop
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Investments in US lowest since 1994

WASHINGTON—The allure of the United States as a destination for overseas investors dimmed last year, as foreign spending to buy up US firms or start new businesses here fell to its lowest point since 1994, according to a government report.

Foreign direct investment outlays fell by more than 64 percent to $52.56 billion in 2002, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said in an annual report released earlier this week.

Experts say the drop reflects a fall in overall merger and acquisition activity linked to a sluggish global economy. But they also say the figures reflect doubts overseas about the soundness of US financial markets in the wake of a wave of corporate accounting scandals.

"No one's flush with cash and making acquisitions now," said Todd Malan, executive director of the Washington-based Organization for International Investment, a trade group representing US subsidiaries of foreign companies.

In 2001, new direct investment from abroad totaled $147.11 billion after peaking in 2000 at a whopping $335.63 billion.

Economists track foreign direct investment in an effort to gauge investor sentiment. Direct investments, such as buying an existing company's operations or building a new factory, are seen as more of a measure of long-term views than money simply poured into the US stock or bond markets.

"The economy depends on it," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pennsylvania.

Europeans made up the largest share of new direct investment. *Reuters*

US economic recovery shaky, reports show

WASHINGTON—The number of Americans lining up to claim unemployment benefits surged unexpectedly last week and factory orders tumbled in April, reports on Thursday showed, indicating the economic recovery is shaky.

But consumers provided a bright spot, with May retail sales doing better than forecast as shoppers snapped up clothing and hunted for bargains.

"The pick up in the economy is still a forecast," said Paul Kasriel, chief economist at Northern Trust. "The economy here and now is still very weak."

Blue-chip stocks fell slightly after the reports and on tepid earnings news from some companies. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 11 points at 9,027.

US Treasury yields set record lows after the data, with the European Central Bank's interest rate cut also fuelling prospects the Federal Reserve would ease when its policy-makers next meet on June 24-25.

The Labor Department said the number of people applying for US initial jobless aid rose by 16,000 to 442,000 in the May 31 week, its highest level in more than a month.

Analysts were expecting claims to drop to 420,000 from a revised 426,000 for the previous week.

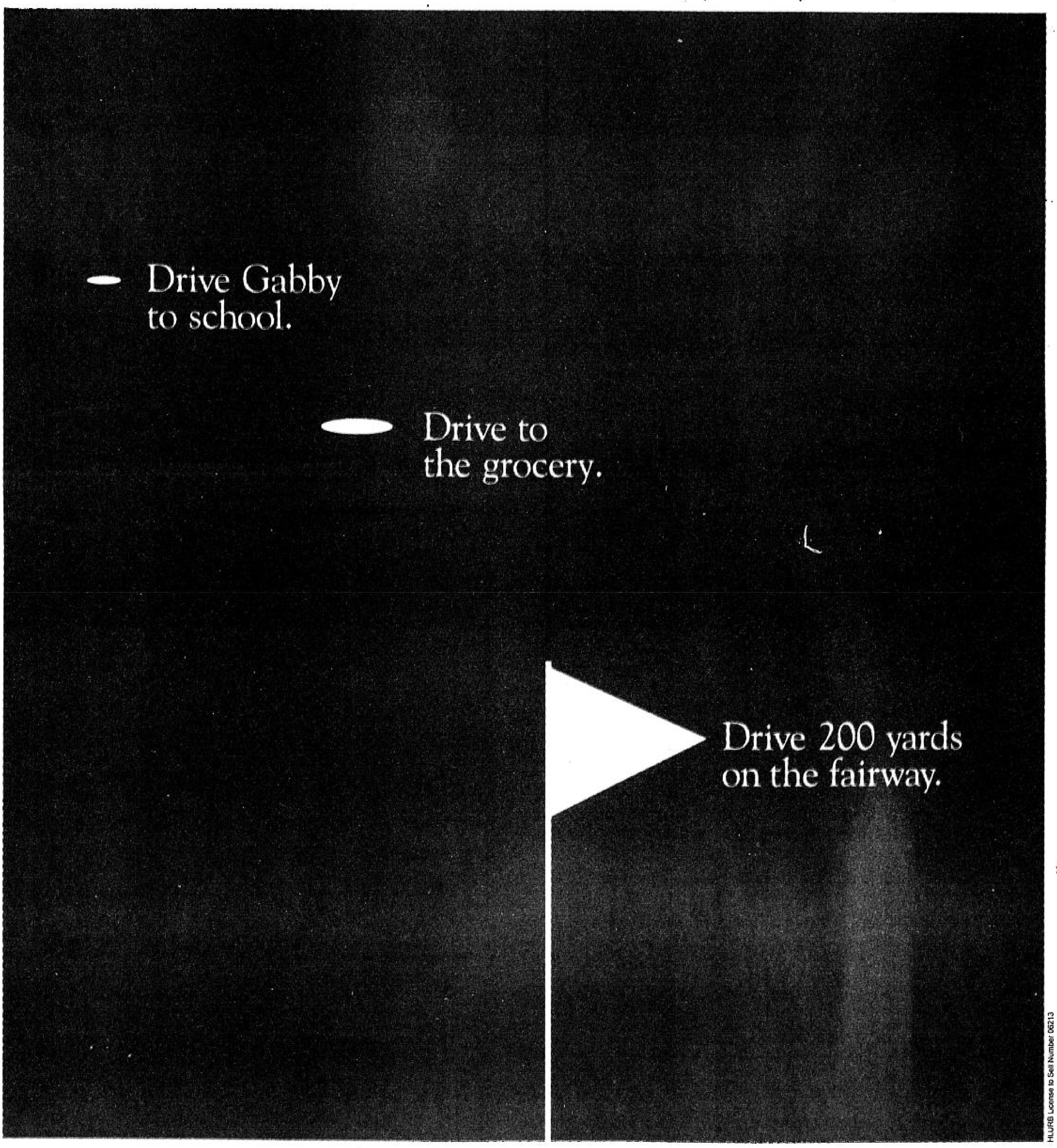
"The labor market continues to struggle," said David Rosenberg, chief North American economist at Merrill Lynch in a report. "Companies remain hesitant to hire."

For a more complete picture of the jobs market, attention will be on Friday's employment report for May. Analysts are expecting a drop of 39,000 for non-farm payrolls, after a fall of 48,000 the previous month.

There was also disappointing news in the manufacturing sector. The Commerce Department said April factory orders sank 2.9 percent, worse than forecasts for a drop of 1.5 percent.

The report showed sharp falls in demand for machinery, transportation and electrical equipment.

Orders for computers and electronic products rose a modest 0.3 percent, but that followed a much faster 2.4 percent increase the previous month. *Reuters*



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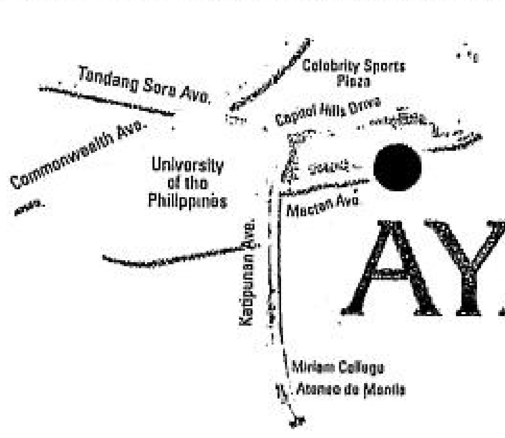

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On the Centennial Anniversary of the
Birth of the late

ROBERTO R. CONCEPCION

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
1965 – 1973

his only surviving daughter, **CARMEN C. VALERO**,
grandchildren, relatives and friends

shall offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
on June 7, 2003, Saturday at 8:00 a.m
at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat
San Beda College
Mendiola, Manila.

Pious readers are requested to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

DANTE P. ALIKPALA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 5, 2003 at the age of 51.

His bereaved wife **ENNA**; children **NEIL DANTE & THEA FRANCESCA**; mother **ELISA** and parents-in-law **MANSUETO & LIBRADA PALMANI**; brothers and sisters; in-laws; request you to join us in celebrating Dante's coming home to the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Philam Life, Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, June 8, 2003, 5:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

COL. PERFECTO J. BARCELONA PAF-Ret.

1913-2003
Died June 6, 2003 at the age of 90 at Veterans Hospital, Quezon City

Survived by his wife **Dolores Santos Barcelona**; daughter **Josefina Manseguiao** and son **Dr. Edgardo S. Barcelona**, relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 8, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 3 p.m.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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103 years

DR. DOMINGO M. LANTICAN, Ph.D.

Former Vice-Chancellor of U.P., Los Baños

Passed away in the grace of Our Lord on June 6, 2003 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife, **Dr. Agnes de Leon-Lantican**;

brothers , sisters and in-laws: **Salvacion, Rosa** and **Daniel Delariarte**, **Corazon, Ricardo** and **Edith Santos, Anita** and **Antonio Limson**, **Edgardo** and **Leticia Sta. Maria, Josefina, Leopoldo** and **Eunice**;

Luz de Leon-Flores, Rafaela de Leon, Doris and **Alfredo Almeda**, **Hector de Leon, Alice** and **Jovy Cinco, Joe** and **Beth de Leon**;

nephews and nieces: **Victor, Bob, Daisy** and **Mike, Noel** and **Carmela, Cielo**, **Guy** and **Gelly, Lorvi, Edwin** and **Eric, Bembem, Deng** and **Eboy**

request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Therese Chapel, U.P. , Los Baños.

Funeral mass is on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Los Baños Cemetery.

ERNA BAER DE VENECIA

Our Beloved Mama and Oma

Born in Berlin, Germany on Christmas Day, 1907, **Erna** came to the Philippines in 1932 and lived most of her life in Dagupan City. She died peacefully in her sleep at Nazareth General Hospital in Dagupan City on June 5, 2003 at the age of 95 to share eternal life with her deceased parents, **Reinhold** and **Hedwig Baer**; her husband, **Policronio**; and their two sons, **Rolf** and **Hans**.

Her children **Maly & Del Oviedo** (†), **Emong & Marta de Venecia**, **Gretchen & Albert del Rosario, Erika** and **Ed Palafox, Irene** and **Tarun Naik, Poli** and **Auring de Venecia, Hedi & Rudy Angala**; grandchildren **Geby, Rudi, Melanie, Marissa, Adel, Ting, Vanessa, Marlene, Kurt, Hans, Eric, Buddy, Hans, Inge, Meg, Steffi, Randin, Jordin, Joli, Eela, Nisha, Damien, Johann, Lionel, Diane, Rolf, Reiner** and **Randall** and her 33 great-grandchildren request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at Perez Boulevard, Dagupan City.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Therese Parish Church on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at 9:00 in the morning. Interment follows at Eternal Garden, Dagupan City.

AUGUSTO T. BRILLANTES, JR.

Born: October 08, 1930
Died: June 05, 2003

Survived by his wife **Zialcita Cuyugan Brillantes**; children **Lynn** and **Gunther, Noemi** and **Toby (Dominic, Lesley** and **Julian)**; **Joel** and **Amy**; **Malta** and **Albert (Ella & Janna)**.

His body lies in state at Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, A.S. Fortuna Street, Mandaue City. Cremation will be on June 08, 2003.

"To Jesus, Though Mary"

TERESA DEL ROSARIO y ZARAGOZA

who peacefully joined her Creator on the 31st of May 2003 at the age of 81

Her bereaved husband **Antonio**; children **Felix, Felipe, Luis, Mediatrix, Dennis, Noel, Belen** and **Erwin**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 8, 2003, Sunday, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Heritage Memorial Park Chapel.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa,

LT. COL. JOSE M. EDUARTE (Ret)
AFP, PMA '54

Now peacefully rest in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 4th day of June, 2003 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **BECKY**; daughter **JOSIE** (†); son **GIGI** and **CRISTY**; grandchildren **JEREMY TERENCE, GENEVA** and **DENISE**; sisters and brother. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Mass and Necrological service will be on Saturday, June 7, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation will be on Sunday, June 8, 2003, 9:30 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Crematorium, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The PCCHS Class '63 Alumni Asso. Inc.
condoles with the family of the late

MANUEL SALITA VICTORIA

Director, Editor-in-Chief, past Secretary

who joined his Creator on June 4, 2003 at the age of 56.

We join his wife **Madeleine**; children **Monina, Boyet, Joanne** and other relatives in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel L, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation of his remains at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Quezon City follow after the 1:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, June 8, 2003.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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RP scientists allay fears on Bt corn

By Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

AN EMOTIONAL blackmail. This was how a scientist described the recently concluded hunger strike of activists who wanted government to suspend the release of BT corn crops in the country.

BT corn MON810, a corn variety engineered and patented by the US biotech firm Monsanto, has potential adverse effects on human health and the environment, the activists said.

Not so, counters Dr. Nina Gloriani Barzaga, research director of Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines.

Barzaga said the hunger strike was "an emotional blackmail" that fed on the fears of the public.

"The safety issue appeals to the public. They use the term 'poison' because the protein (in BT corn) is called 'toxin.' If we have to use the term poison, we could use it only to say it is a poison to corn borers but not to humans. We have no receptors for the toxin," she said.

"Many of the food we eat also have so-called toxins, but they do not harm us because we have no receptors for them or they are inactive in our digestive tract."

Barzaga said anti-biotech groups kept claiming that genetically modified organisms cause cancer but have not provided scientific proof.

Rational debate

Former Science Secretary William Padolina, now deputy director general for partnerships of the International Rice Research Institute, told the INQUIRER that an issue needing scientific resolution could only be resolved through rational debate, not through a hunger strike.

Padolina said he noted some inconsistencies in the protesters' claims.

"I think there is some inconsistency in that Bt corn opponents find it acceptable to use biopesticides, like microbially based Bt pesticides, that have been in use in the Philippines since 1986 and have the same active ingredient as Bt corn," Padolina said.

He said these pesticides were being used by vegetable farmers in Benguet and are accepted globally as part of organic farming technologies.

"Opponents of Bt corn fail to realize that many of our food crops today have been bred using less-precise technologies like conventional breeding and chemical and radiation mutation but whose products have not been subject to the same level of scrutiny as GM (genetically modified) crops, even if some of the food crops contain natural toxins," stressed Padolina.

'Unfounded'

Benigno D. Peczon, president of Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, said claims made by anti-biotechnology groups calling for a moratorium on the release of biotech crops were "unfounded and completely unsupported by facts."

Among fears raised by the groups were the risk of stomach and colon cancers, allergies, poisoning of the soil, the possible appearance and spread of new or more virulent strains of infectious agents and the killing of nontargeted organisms.

Peczon said crops developed through plant biotechnology are among the most-tested and most-regulated food and fiber products. He said this was the overwhelming consensus of the international scientific community, including the Royal Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the European Commission, the French Academy of Medicine and the American Medical Association.

"Bt proteins in Bt crops have a history of safe use, are specific for the targeted crop pests, and pose little or no threat to other related insects, pest species, animals or humans," Peczon stressed.

"In eight years of commercial planting in hundreds of millions of acres worldwide, where biotech crops and foods have been consumed ubiquitously, there have been no documented adverse effects," he added.

Peczon said numerous studies showed that Bt proteins from Bt crops were rapidly degraded in the soil environment and did not negatively impact on soil organisms.

He added that given the millions of hectares of land planted with Bt corn, there was no indication that new and virulent strains of infectious agents could be produced by Bt corn MON810.

Other scientists

But antibiotechnology groups remain firm in their arguments, and are backed up by 18 Filipino scientists and physicians who described Bt corn as a "biological time bomb" that could spread antibiotic-resistant genes.

Biotechnology proponents counter that Bt corn, particularly the Philippine-approved MON810, was developed without the use of antibiotic-resistant market genes. They say there is "absolutely zero possibility" that the said genes will spread because these are not present in the first place.

"Without casting aspersion on the capability of the 18 Filipino scientists, we point to the fact that the greater majority of scientists in the country, including those in UP Manila, believe in the safety of GM crops currently in the market," said Peczon.

Getting to know 'Bt' better

By Charles E. Buban

THE CONTROVERSIAL Bt corn.

ASK people what "Bt" is and you get responses ranging from "I haven't the slightest idea," to "a key ingredient in Frankenfoods and thus unsafe for human consumption."

Bt, or *Bacillus thuringiensis*, is a type of organic-based pesticide incorporated genetically to certain food crops (like corn, potato, cotton and soybean) to make it resistant to certain pests.

But Bt did not start as a genetic additive right away.

In fact, Bt has been known to scientists for over a century as a common bacteria found in grain dust of silos and other grain storage facilities.

According to a timeline prepared by the University of California, San Diego, Bt was first isolated in 1901 by Japanese biologist Shigetane Ishiwatari who was investigating the cause of a disease that was killing large populations of silkworms.

But it wasn't until 1911 when Bt was rediscovered and officially christened *Bacillus thuringiensis* by Ernst Berliner who named it after the German province of Thuringia.

By 1920, farmers in Europe started using Bt as a pesticide against certain types of insects (mainly in the genera Lepidoptera, Diptera and Coleoptera), which they considered as pests.

In 1938, France introduced to the market commercialized spore-based formulations of Bt pesticide; in the 1950s, it was made available for commercial use in the United States.

However, these early spray-type Bt pesticide products were found to be less effective because they were easily washed away by rain and were degraded under the sun's ultraviolet rays. Synthetic insecticide counterparts were proven more effective and readily available.

Popularity regained

When pests developed resistance to these synthetic type plus a growing anxiety over its environmental impact, farmers and scientists went back to Bt.

Bt became an obvious target for government and privately funded researches since it was organic, affected only specific types of insects and did not persist in the environment.

With the recent advancement in molecular biology, it soon became feasible for scientists to transfer the Bt gene that encodes the toxic crystals into a plant.

The first genetically engineered corn crop was registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1995.

In the case of Bt corn, a gene from Bt, which produces a crystal protein called delta-endotoxinprotein, was isolated and inserted genetically into the corn.

Killing pests

To kill the Lepidoptera larva and caterpillar, a part of the plant that contains the Bt protein (not all parts of the plant necessarily contain the protein in equal concentrations) must be ingested.

The protein acts by attaching to the gut wall of the insect; within minutes the insect stops feeding and eventually dies of septicemia as bacteria multiply in the blood.

Scientists found the protein to be very selective; it did not harm other insects such as beetles, flies, bees and wasps.

Alternative to insecticides

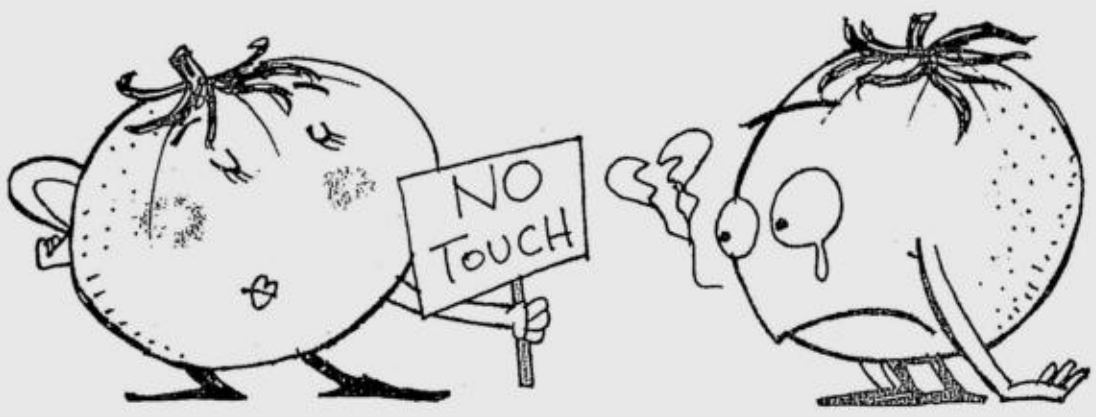
Corn borers are a significant cause of crop damage because they actively tunnel into stalk tissue and thus cannot be reached by sprayed pesticides.

But with Bt-containing plant varieties, corn farmers now have an alternative to sprayed insecticides.

To date, 16 countries have already adopted genetically modified crops, according to the data from the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

This increase also meant that areas planted with transgenic crops have jumped from 1.7 million hectares in 1996 to 58.7 million hectares in 2002.

In the Philippines the Bt corn MON810 was given a permit to propagate by the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Plant Industry last year. The permit does not cover all types of Bt corn, but only MON810 has undergone field tests since 1997, according to Searca.



System prevents GM plants from spreading genes

WASHINGTON—Concerned that genetically modified plants will spread their genes to related crops in nearby fields, researchers have developed a system aimed at preventing such crossbreeding.

It's a method they hope that, with further refinement, will allow farmers to reseed crops yearly without worry about affecting nonmodified crops.

The new system, developed by a team of researchers led by Johann P. Schernthaner at Canada's Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Center in Ottawa, is reported in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

While the system was developed using tobacco, Schernthaner said he believes it would be applicable for most crops, although "the genetic components involved would have to be assessed for suitability on a case to case basis."

The findings do show, he said, "that the containment of transgenes is possible in an agricultural setting and that environmental concerns...can be addressed in a simple fashion."

Doug Gurian-Sherman, science director for biotechnology at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said there "are pros and cons to this from our perspective" but it is technology that should be explored as a means of preventing gene movement.

Agronomy professor T. Wayne Pfeiffer of the University of Kentucky said that while the system worked to some degree, the process used seemed "impractical in a seed production system for a seed reproduced crop."

While the system has been demonstrated in the laboratory, the researchers said it needs to be refined and tested thoroughly for actual field use. *AP*

New vitamin discovered

JAPANESE scientists have discovered a new vitamin that plays an important role in fertility in mice and may have a similar function in humans.

A research team led by Takafumi Kato confirmed that pyrroloquinoline quinone (PQQ), a substance discovered in 1979, can be categorized as a vitamin.

Mice deprived of PQQ suffer reduced fertility and roughened fur, the Tokyo-based Institute of Physical and Chemical Research said in a news release.

Vitamins that have an important effect on mice usually act in the same way in humans, Kato said.

"There are many possible factors behind the drop in fertility," Kato said. "We need more research to find out exactly what is happening to these mice and what would be the effect on humans."

PQQ is the first new vitamin to be discovered since 1948, the institute said.

Vitamins are defined as organic substances needed in small quantities for health and growth. They must be obtained from food as they cannot be produced by the body.

The best source of PQQ discovered so far is *natto*, a pungent Japanese dish of fermented soybeans.

Other foods rich in the substance include parsley, green tea, green peppers, kiwi fruit and papaya.

PQQ is not generally included in multivitamin tablets available in the market, the release said.

There are 13 other types of vitamins already known, and PQQ is believed to belong to the Vitamin B group, the release said. *Reuters*

Eye of the beholder

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IF YOU close your eyes right now, could you describe what your best friend was wearing last night? Could you describe the outfit of the person sitting next to you at this moment?

If you've spent way too much time playing games like Doom and Grand Theft Auto on the Gamecube or PS2 or even your beloved PC or Mac lately, there's a pretty good chance you're going to say yes. At least, that's what a new study from the University of Rochester says.

In the May 29 issue of Nature, Daphne Bavelier, an assistant professor of cognitive neuroscience, and student C. Shawn Green (an avid gamer, which explains how this study came about) discussed the (violent/action-oriented) gamer's superior ability over non-gamers to visually multitask.

In other words, if a gamer's used to playing one of those games where he not only has to shoot at everyone who enters his frame of reference but also to pick up ammo and bigger guns, he's less likely in real life to miss the car heading straight at him while he's simultaneously driving and talking on his cell phone.

To quote Dr. Jeremy Wolfe, the director of the Visual Attention Laboratory at Harvard Medical School, "the fact that you are defending your own life in these games might be what makes their lessons stick."

And the fact that no one really dies during the lesson doesn't hurt either.

Two tests

To study the gamers' abilities Dr. Bavelier and Green modified tests she originally used to study the effects of congenital deafness on visual skills. They ran five tests on participants aged 18-23, which suggests that they used campus volunteers.

Four of the tests had only male participants. This is because they apparently couldn't find any female gamers who were devotees of the action-packed and sometimes graphically violent video games that, they theorized, teach players to be more visually aware of their (virtual reality) environments.

The first four tests measured the participants' visual skills, determining the normal range of their eyesight and their levels of awareness at the edges of their vision. One test asked each of the men to count the number of squares that were flashed onto a computer screen.

On the average, gamers were able to look at the screen and count at least two more items out of the 10 faster than non-gamers did. (The tests involving 11 and 12 squares proved equally difficult for both groups so those results weren't reported.)

In a second test, participants were asked to identify a second object that appeared shortly after the first to measure how quickly they could detect and identify the items. Again, gamers did better than their non-gamer counterparts, suggesting an increased ability to process information quickly.

Medal of Honor, Tetris

The most interesting test for me though, involved male and female non-gamers. Each participant was given three of the four tests for gamers, two of which were the ones I described earlier, before being assigned to play either Medal of Honor or Tetris an hour a day for 10 straight days.

For those unfamiliar with the first video game, it's apparently set in World War II and involves a good deal of shooting. With regard to Tetris, did you ever get sick of watching that space shuttle take off after completing all five rounds of level 9 in the Gameboy version?

At the end of the 10 days, the tests were repeated. The non-gamers who had played Tetris showed no signs of improvement in their visual skills. Those who played Medal of Honor, however, were able to identify an average of two items more than the Tetris players, suggesting that even beginning gamers can improve their own visual skills after just a few hours of play.

This study only emphasizes why the US military has its soldiers using computer simulators to practice fighting under combat conditions.

While I think that games which teach people to be more aware of their surroundings is useful (since I don't think I'm ever going to see anyone driving with both hands on the wheel ever again), I wish there was a less graphically violent teaching method, like say, playing The Sims.

I currently have a family of eight adults who go to work between 8 and 10 a.m. and come home between 3 p.m. and 2 a.m., depending on their jobs. Keeping track of all of them at the same time is not an easy task, I assure you, but they haven't driven me mad enough to make me buy the guinea pig that gets sick and eventually infects its owners. I guess deep down inside, I'm just not capable of murder.

Experts address hypertension and heart disease

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

THIS is a sequel to my article last week on the recent Philippine Heart Association annual convention where various studies were presented. The merits and demerits of the recently published 7th hypertension guidelines of the Joint National Committee in the United States (JNC 7) were also discussed.

MEDICAL FILES

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The JNC 7 labels a systolic blood pressure (BP) of 120-139 mmHg and diastolic BP of 80-89 mmHg as already prehypertensive. In previous guidelines, these levels were still considered high-normal.

The new classification would suggest that individuals with prehypertensive BP are already at some risk for cardiovascular complication and I'm afraid this would panic a lot people with these BP levels. A doctor-patient even called me up to ask if he should be started on drug therapy since his usual BP is 130/85 mmHg.

I estimate that there are at least 4-million adult Filipinos under this category.

Appropriate therapy

A healthy lifestyle is recommended for those with prehypertensive BP. But if one is considered high-risk—with established heart disease, diabetes and multiple risk factors—treatment with an appropriate drug may already be started.

The bottom line is: it's not the BP alone which confers the risk on an individual but the total risk burden, which the doctor is in the best position to assess in any given patient. This will determine the most appropriate therapy that will minimize the risk of that individual in developing a stroke or a heart attack.

The JNC 7 treatment advocates a diuretic-based therapy for all types of hypertension. Diuretics are cheap, are effective in lowering BP and have been shown to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

The big problem is that they're not well-tolerated especially in warm, humid countries like ours. And since antihypertensive treatment is a lifelong proposition, using diuretics as monotherapy may not be ideal. Combining low doses of diuretics with other antihypertensive agents is a well-accepted therapeutic strategy.

Key factor

Why the big fuss about optimal BP control?

Hypertension control still remains a key factor in controlling cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Hypertension itself does not kill, but its complications do—many times without fair warning.

Diseases of the heart and the blood vessels are still a major cause of illness and deaths. Of the estimated 50 million deaths worldwide in 1990, about a third was due to cardiovascular diseases. More than 10 years later, the statistics did not remarkably improve.

The most common clinical presentation of CVD is still coronary artery disease (CAD), caused by a blockage of the heart's blood vessels that can ultimately lead to a heart attack.

In fact, one in every two men and one in every three women above 40 is at risk of developing CAD.

Despite lifestyle measures, the use of certain medicines (aspirin, cholesterol-lowering medicines, heart rate-lowering drugs) and other interventions (bypass surgery, balloon angioplasty), the global burden of CAD is expected to further escalate. It is projected that by 2020, CVD will account for 37 percent of all deaths. New strategies to address the problem are therefore urgently needed.

Promising drugs

The promising medicines for CAD include the classes of drugs called angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs). These drugs were initially developed for lowering high blood pressure.

Because of certain special properties of the heart and blood vessels, they have also been used extensively in other conditions, like in patients suffering from heart failure and heart attack, with remarkable results.

The use of ACE inhibitors and ARBs may be started even in the prehypertensive phase or even in those with normal BPs if there are other compelling indications such as CAD, diabetes with kidney involvement (proteinuria) or heart failure.

Aside from lowering blood pressure, ACE inhibitors and ARBs can potentially improve heart and blood vessel wall structure and function, prevent vessel constriction, promote blood vessel dilatation and suppress unnecessary blood clotting—all contributory factors in the development of CAD.

Some studies have initially demonstrated possible beneficial effects of ACE inhibitors and ARBs in patients with CAD. Results, however, are not always consistent and patient populations were limited mostly to high-risk subjects.

Many doctors are looking forward to the results of a large clinical trial which is exploring the potential of an ACE inhibitor drug in patients who have stable CAD without heart failure and are not at very high risk for such a condition—like what majority of patients really are.

This ongoing landmark study is Europa, the European trial on the reduction of cardiac events with perindopril in stable coronary artery disease. The Europa results will be presented during the European Society of Cardiology meeting in September.

The Europa study involves 12,236 patients to determine whether the addition of the ACE inhibitor perindopril (Coversyl) to standard therapy decreases cardiovascular deaths, heart attack and cardiac arrests.

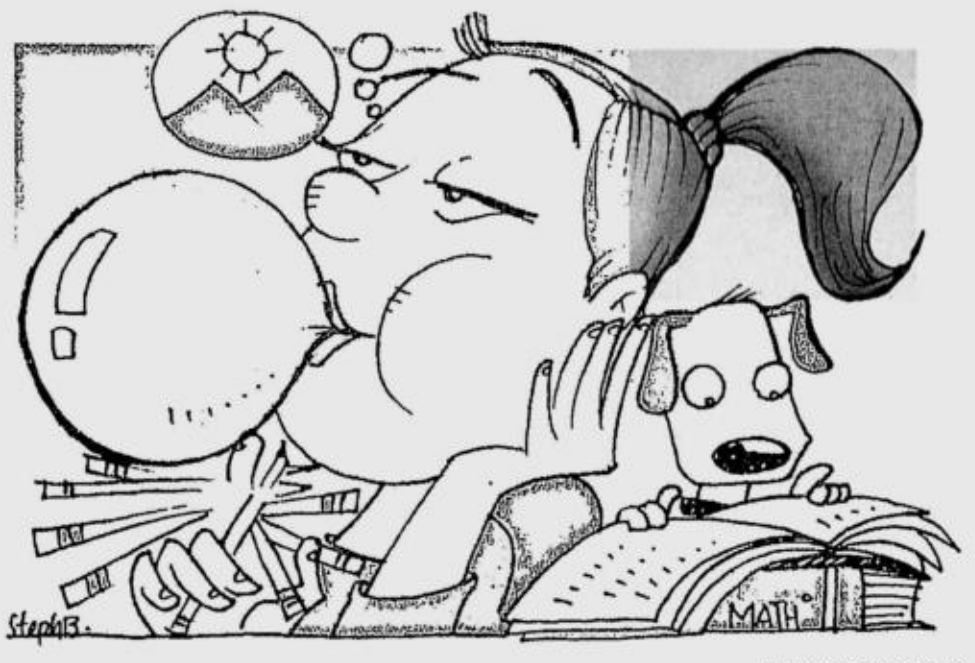


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Math learning tips

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MOST people who dislike math go out of their way to avoid any encounters with the subject. Some of my students choose their college majors based not on their innate likes, but because these require the least amount of math. Of course, a lot of them regret doing so later on, and come back and say, "Now I want to take an MBA, but I still need to know math to get into a good business school. Can I sit in your class?"

We cannot shut our eyes and hope math will just go away. Escapism is seldom an effective strategy—in life or in math.

Rocha R. Reinoso of Palawan State University in Cuyo is made of sterner stuff. She writes:

I am a third year college student, majoring in math. I've read your articles, especially those which say that math is not really that difficult. You are one of my inspirations in taking math as my major. I took (math) not because I love (the subject), but because I want to know for myself if it is really a hated subject. I also want to prove to myself that I can make it even if people think math is difficult.

Before I took math as my major, I told my parents that if I did not do well, they should allow me to shift courses. I have already taken my final exam, and I am satisfied with it. But can you advise me how to improve my performance? When I face so many math problems, I still feel nervous.

Let me start by congratulating you on taking the road less traveled—the difficult road, but one which seems to be challenging you fully. I have never said that math is not difficult—in fact, I have often stated that math is probably one of the most difficult (if not, the most difficult) subjects I have faced.

But just because something is difficult does not mean it should not be tackled, a sentiment which you have expressed above. I am happy that you have chosen to do math, and that you have the courage to test yourself. In today's world, where getting results quickly and easily is the norm, your choice is a noble one.

Pointers for math learning

I am honored to have inspired you in some way, and now I urge you to hang on and learn the intricacies of math the best way you can. Throughout the years and in several books, I have given several tips on learning math effectively. I will summarize some pointers:

• Understand that there is no short and easy road to success.

Have you heard the famous story of Euclid, the father of geometry? It was said that long ago, Euclid was brought before the Greek king Ptolemy. Ptolemy commanded Euclid to teach him geometry as fast as he could—perhaps he could master the many volumes of Euclid's Elements in, say, two weeks?

The wise mathematician replied, "There is no royal road to geometry."

There is no special shortcut for the king. If the king wishes to learn math well, then he has to take the road everyone else takes—the slow but steady road which requires perseverance, patience and practice.

You probably know by now that there is no way you can pass your exams if you do not study. Sure, shortcuts exist for certain operations, but knowing these shortcuts is not enough for you to really understand what is going on. You would have learned by now that hard work is a requirement for good grades—and more importantly, good understanding.

Basics first

• Make sure you understand the basics before going on to more advanced topics. You are already in third year math, and you will soon encounter advanced calculus. The latter can in no way be called an easy subject, and requires facility with basic differential and integral calculus, and more besides.

I hope you have mastered elementary calculus—if not, you may want to review this before you go to the advanced version. If you barely passed first-year calculus, you need to do a lot of catching up to make sense of the upcoming subject matter.

• Practice, practice, practice. There is no better way to master a topic than to do loads of exercises. Do you remember when you first started algebra? Variables seemed to be such strange entities, and I am sure you longed for the comfort and security of solid numbers. But after doing a lot of factoring, simplification and solving equations, the language of algebra turned out to be fine after all.

For your future subjects, whether they be number theory, abstract algebra or complex variables, make sure to understand the new concepts and practice them well. Do as many of the exercises in the text as you can—in fact, you may want to do all of them.

When I was a student, I used to practice beyond the text. I would go to the library and do exercises in other textbooks to make sure I master the topic.

Another helpful tip is to time yourself when doing exercises. You may be nervous when faced with a lot of math problems in the test because you have not yet mastered the topics enough to finish the test confidently and quickly. Taking a test well means not only knowing how to answer the questions, but being able to finish them within a certain period.

Brainstorming sessions

• Form or join study groups if you feel these groups can help. Some of my students prefer to study on their own and claim that being in a group just distracts them from doing productive work.

However, most students find the brainstorming sessions do help them understand the lesson better. Why? In a group, various perspectives on the topic arise, and may deepen understanding.

In math (especially advanced math), there is often more than one way to solve a problem, and in groups, different strategies are more likely to be discovered.

Research has also shown that peer teaching is frequently effective, especially for shy students who might find it difficult to approach their professors but might more readily ask help from their peers.

There are strategies on how to do well in math, and I have discussed a lot of them in my book "Eureka!" (available in major bookstores). Good luck and enjoy math!

(Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Probiotics for intestinal health

A 4-YEAR-OLD boy from Chichester, England, was recently diagnosed with a serious illness called Short Bowel Syndrome, an incurable disease. His condition saw his three-meter-long bowel cut to just 60 cm and as a result, the boy lost the ability to digest and absorb food.

The poor boy was already having bouts of diarrhea 12 times a day, and his mother had already resigned herself to the fact that her son was going to die. At that time, all she could do was be at his bedside, hold his hand, cheer him up, and most of all, pray.

But the mother's fears turned to joy, for the boy recovered and escaped death. The boy's attending physician, David Candy, said, "the boy recovered and was able to return home after taking food with *lactobacillus casei* Shirota strain." The boy received treatment at Chichester's St. Richard Hospital in the UK.

The boy's quick recovery and healing baffled the most seasoned doctors and scientists. But what really is this probiotics? What role did it play in saving the boy's life?

Vital role

Probiotics are live beneficial bacteria, and play a vital role in improving the overall balance of bacteria found in the human intestines, particularly the small intestines. Without them, the human digestive system will not function correctly, and other factors like imbalanced diet, stress and aging may upset its balance. By promoting the presence of good bacteria in the intestines, good health is maintained by controlling the activity of bad bacteria, which if active can cause other bad bacterium and viruses to thrive in the intestines, thereby disrupting the body's natural immune system. A weak immune system, without having to elaborate, would cause undue damage to the body.

Probiotic bacteria are also classified as lactic acid bacteria, which lists among its type the *lactobacillus casei* Shirota strain. However, not all bacteria can be classified as probiotic. These bacteria have to meet certain conditions to be classified as such. One is that it should already exist in the intestine, it should be alive by the time it reaches the gut, and it should be proven that it has a beneficial effect on human health. Only when these conditions are met can the bacteria be classified as probiotic.

Family health drink

At present, the world is taking notice of the benefits of probiotics. After being discovered more than 70 years ago, probiotics is expected to spread even further, as a way toward a long and healthy life in the 21st century.

Yakult, a popular and unique family health drink in the Philippines, contains over eight billion live *lactobacillus casei* Shirota strain, a prominent probiotic microorganism. These live *lactobacillus*, one of the healthy and beneficial bacteria under the probiotics classification, is an essential element in sustaining a healthy intestinal tract, which plays a vital role in boosting the immune system.

Let's help prevent the spread of SARS!

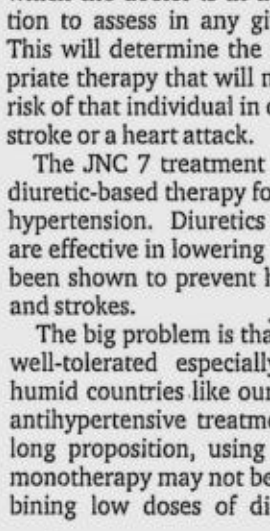
In pneumonia and acute lower respiratory infections...

It's either

Zinc

or

Silk



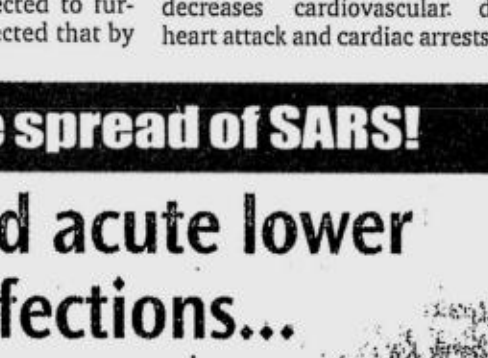
The effects of daily supplementation with 10mg of elemental zinc on the incidence and prevalence of acute lower respiratory infections was evaluated in a double-blind, randomized, controlled trial of 609 children *(zinc, n=298; control, n=311)* 6 to 35 months of age. Supplementation and morbidity surveillance were done for 6 months.[1]

Zinc significantly reduces respiratory morbidity in children

"...there was a reduction of 45% in the incidence of acute lower respiratory infections in zinc-supplemented children."[1]

"...these findings suggest that intervention to improve zinc intake will improve the health and survival of children..."[1]

Reference: 1 Sazawal, et al. Zinc supplementation reduces the incidence of acute lower respiratory infections in infants and preschool children. A double-blind controlled trial. *Pediatrics* 1995; 102(1): 1-5



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Lilly invests P3.9B to fight multidrug-resistant TB

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

ELI Lilly and Co. has announced the launch of the first comprehensive effort to fight the spread of multidrug resistant tuberculosis, or MDR-TB, a form of tuberculosis that is resistant to two or more of the primary drugs used for the treatment of TB.

The global effort will entail capital investments amounting to P3.9 billion on the part of Eli Lilly and Co., a leading innovation-driven company that develops best-in-class pharmaceutical products using the latest research from its worldwide laboratories and from collaborations with eminent scientific organizations.

Int'l public health threat

TB is a bacterial infection that spreads through the lymph nodes and bloodstream to any organ in the body, but is usually found in the lungs. Next to SARS, the disease is now considered as a serious international public health threat.

Lilly's initiative comes as TB and MDR-TB have recorded steady increases in both the developing and developed worlds. This has raised concern within the medical community that available treatments are inadequate. More important, the prevailing attitude in the pharmaceutical and R&D sectors is that the disease is limited to developing nations and markets where profits are hard to come by.

Now in top 10

According to latest statistics from the Department of Health (DOH) in the Philippines, TB is one of the top 10 leading causes of death, with a total of 28,041 out of every 100,000 Filipinos infected with the disease and a 7.9 percent death rate each year.

The lack of disease control and access to treatment, as well as untrained health care providers and low funding are considered to be contributing factors to the growing prevalence of MDR-TB.

MDR-TB now poses a serious health risk in highly populated countries such as China and the Philippines. MDR-TB is especially threatening because super-resistant strains can emerge for which there is currently no cure.

Worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, roughly 400,000 new cases of MDR-TB are reported in more than 100 countries each year. It is estimated that the average MDR-TB patient infects up to 20 other people in his or her lifetime.

Richard A. Smith, president of Eli Lilly Asia Operations said, "This initiative is tremendously significant because it involves all aspects of disease prevention and cure, while also preparing the groundwork for developing nations to treat and contain MDR-TB for the long haul."

According to Sandeep Gupta, general manager of Eli Lilly (Philippines) Inc., "Tuberculosis remains to be a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Philippines. And definitely, this initiative will go a long way in alleviating the impact of the disease in the country."

Global initiative

The global initiative goes beyond giving manufacturing firms in China, India and South Africa the technology to produce capreomycin and cycloserine, to encompass training and certification for good manufacturing practices and sound business management.

This will enable the countries to realize sustainable results in their containment and treatment of MDR-TB.

Additionally, Lilly has negotiated stipulations as to how much a company to whom this manufacturing technology is transferred can charge designated buyers in emerging or developing nations for the two antibiotics. A controlled partner price will provide a margin that can sustain the business, while increasing the global supply of these necessary drugs.

The increased supply created by the transfer of manufacturing technology will be boosted by Lilly's own investment to double the production of capreomycin from 0.6 tons to 1.2 tons.

The company has also vowed to continue its provision of both antibiotics at a fraction of their cost to WHO-approved MDR-TB DOTS-Plus programs around the world. The value of this discount is approximately $25 million.

"Lilly's investment reflects our commitment to address the world's most pressing medical needs," said Smith.

Today, two antibiotics effectively treat MDR-TB. The WHO has warned that without proper treatment, these drugs could become obsolete, putting the world at risk for a terrible health catastrophe.

In an effort to prevent further global outbreaks of MDR-TB, Lilly and other members of the initiative will be working with governments to encourage them to adopt the WHO's protocols for treating TB and MDR-TB.

The vast majority of TB cases are found in countries that have not adopted the DOTS program.

This global effort will engage the expertise and resources of the WHO; the US Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), an affiliate of Harvard Medical School; and Purdue University, to increase the number of trained personnel and drugs available to treat the expanding crisis of MDR-TB.

Technology transfer

As part of this pioneering effort and to help prevent further spread of the disease, Lilly shall transfer its technology to manufacture capreomycin and cycloserine, the two antibiotics necessary for treatment of MDR-TB and establish a Center of Excellence for the training of physicians and health care personnel in the treatment of MDR-TB.

Lilly shall also lead the effort to establish a comprehensive surveillance program that will monitor development of resistance against the antibiotics used to treat MDR-TB and invest in facilities improvements in China, India and South Africa so production of one of the essential drugs used to treat MDR-TB can be doubled.

It shall also provide both antibiotics at a fraction of their cost to the WHO green light committee-approved DOTS-Plus treatment programs around the world.

Life-long treatment for CVD prevention

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

CARDIOVASCULAR disease, or CVD, is a life-long disease which requires life-long treatment.

Such was the advice of heart experts when they discussed the role of the statin class of drugs in treating cholesterol problems and other high-risk conditions which make patients prone to heart attacks and strokes, during the recently concluded convention of the Philippine College of Physicians.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral, past president of the Philippine Heart Association and current president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension explained that the atherosclerotic process, which clog arteries, can be retarded but not actually cured or reversed effectively. Atherosclerosis is a continuous, progressive and long-lasting process.

In most cases, it is what one might call an incurable condition, but it can be helped, she added.

Life-long compliance

Dr. Cabral said physicians should advise their patients to take cholesterol-lowering drugs for an indefinite period of time. The cholesterol levels of those taking statins go down with treatment but go up again after statin treatment is discontinued.

"You can bring the blood pressure down but in most instances, when you stop giving the patient antihypertensive agents, the blood pressure will go right back up again. The same is true with bad cholesterol levels and triglycerides," she said.

The other members of the expert panel were Dr. Gregorio Patacsil Jr. and Dr. Rafael Castillo, who are also past presidents of the Philippine Heart Association. They discussed the multiple clinical benefits which can be derived from statin therapy.

"These are benefits not necessarily associated with the statin's cholesterol-lowering effect," said Dr. Patacsil.

Statins are versatile drugs which also have the ability to prevent inflammation and blood clotting which are important factors in the atherosclerotic process.

Lifestyle changes

The expert panel however emphasized lifestyle changes as the important mainstay in treatment. It is no longer a secret that heart-related diseases such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes are caused by a bad diet and faulty lifestyle.

"There may be a genetic predisposition to the disease, but a major factor implicated in cardiovascular disease development is the individual's lifestyle and diet," explained Dr. Patacsil.

When lifestyle modification is not sufficient for those with cholesterol problems, doctors prescribe a cholesterol-lowering drug such as statins.

Statin therapy

Studies on statins showed a 20 to 60 percent reduction in levels of LDL-cholesterol—the bad type of cholesterol—in patients using these drugs. Statins also reduced elevated triglyceride levels (another unfavorable type of fat) and produced a modest increase in HDL-cholesterol (good cholesterol).

This class of drugs works by slowing down the production of cholesterol and by increasing the liver's ability to remove the LDL-cholesterol already in the blood. Statins have become the drugs most often prescribed when a person needs a cholesterol-lowering medication.

Dr. Cabral also mentioned the results of the Heart Protection Study (HPS) which showed that vascular defects were significantly reduced in patients on statin therapy. The benefits of statin therapy were sustained and even became greater with time. The HPS is the largest lipid-lowering study involving 20,536 subjects which determined whether or not statin therapy would reduce cardiovascular mortality and morbidity.

Treatment compliance has been a problem before for most patients since statins are relatively expensive. To address this problem, Therapharma, a division of United Laboratories, has introduced an affordable brand of simvastatin (Vidastat) which is bio-equivalent with the more expensive brands. This move is seen to not only improve patient treatment compliance but also a means to help hypercholesterolemic patients increase their chances against the deadly CVD.

New trial results settle dispute in chronic heart failure

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE RESULTS of the Comet study, the first-ever head-to-head mortality comparison of two beta blocking agents in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF) were announced recently in Basel, Switzerland, by the Comet steering committee.

They demonstrate that Carvedilol, a comprehensive beta blocking agent, saves significantly more lives than metoprolol, a conventional beta blocker. Patients receiving Carvedilol had a significant survival benefit as compared to patients on metoprolol.

Resolving controversy

The Carvedilol or Metoprolol European Trial (Comet), sponsored by F. Hoffman-La Roche was designed to resolve the controversy as to whether comprehensive or selective beta blockade is superior in reducing mortality in patients with CHF.

"Comet is the longest and largest beta blocker study conducted in chronic heart failure with more than 10,000 patient years of follow-up," commented Prof. Philip Poole-Wilson, chair of the Comet steering committee. "The significant survival benefits of Carvedilol demonstrate a clear difference between the agents."

Comet was a double blind, randomized parallel group study designed to compare the effects of Carvedilol with those metoprolol on the risk of death and hospitalizations in patient with CHF.

The trial enrolled 3029 patients with mild to moderate to severe (NYHA class 2-4) CHF from 15 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK). All patients were followed up for 46-74 months adding up to a total database of more than 10,000 patient years, making Comet the longest and largest beta blocker study ever conducted in CHF

Superior choice

"The Comet results confirm that Carvedilol is the superior choice to metoprolol in the treatment of chronic heart failure," said William M. Burns, head of the Pharmaceutical Division at Roche. "Comet adds to the extensive body of evidence on Dilatrend," the most studied beta blocking agent in chronic heart failure demonstrating Dilatrend's efficacy, safety and tolerability across the whole spectrum of patients.

Comet's principal results will first be presented during the official hot line session on June 23 at the Heart Failure 2003 meeting, organized by the European Society of Cardiology, in Strasbourg, France.

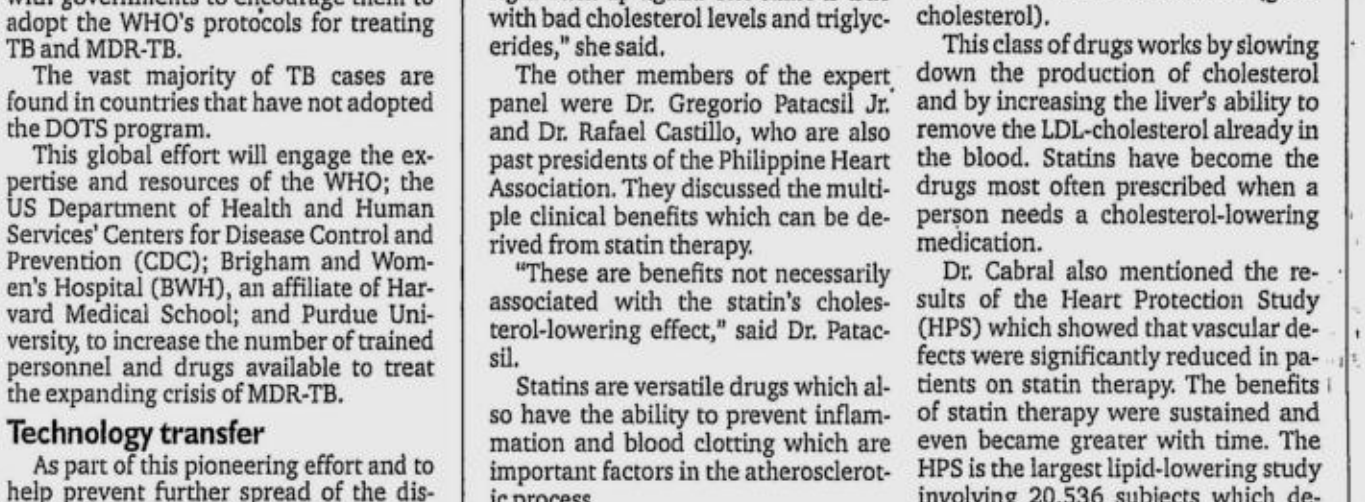


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Largest-ever stroke prevention trial

THE LARGEST worldwide clinical trial for secondary stroke prevention called Prevention Regimen for Effectively Avoiding Second Strokes (PRoFESS) was announced by pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim last week during the 6th European stroke conference in Valencia, Spain.

The clinical trial will cover 15,500 patients in more than 20 countries in 600 sites. Patient enrollment starts in September with final results expected in 2007.

It aims to prove that Aggrenox or Asasantin Retard is superior to clopidogrel plus ASA in secondary stroke prevention. In a previous recurrent stroke prevention trial, Aggrenox was found twice as effective as either ASA or dipyridamole alone.

Further risk reduction

PRoFESS will also investigate the extent to which Micardis (telmisartan), one of the novel classes of AII receptor blockers (ARBs), may further reduce the risk of recurrent stroke on top of usual antihypertensive therapy in both hypertensive and normotensive stroke patients.

During the symposium, Boehringer Ingelheim presented its comprehensive cerebrovascular protection program for acute and secondary stroke. Experts discussed stroke prevention and treatment options with the platelet aggregation inhibitor Aggrenox Retard (dipyridamole+ASS), the angiotensin-receptor blocker Micardis (telmisartan) and the tissue plasminogen activator Actilyse (alteplase).

PRoFESS will also investigate the extent to which Micardis (telmisartan), one of the novel classes of AII receptor blockers (ARBs), may further reduce the risk of recurrent stroke on top of usual antihypertensive therapy both in hypertensive and normotensive stroke patients. Angiotensin II appears to be an independent risk factor for stroke. Micardis was selected for the study because of its long-acting angiotensin II receptor-blocking properties.

Data were presented on Actilyse, the first and only treatment for acute ischemic stroke. The drug was recently approved in Europe for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke in the 0-3 hour window in specialized stroke units registered with the Safe Implementation of Thrombolysis in Stroke Monitoring System (SITS-MOST). The SITS register has been developed to provide guidance and support for clinicians wishing to use alteplase.

SITS-MOST will enable physicians in registered specialist stroke units to prescribe Actilyse for acute stroke patients in the crucial hours immediately following a stroke.

The introduction of Actilyse in conjunction with the development of SITS-MOST aims to ensure that patients receive maximum benefit from this new development in stroke management.

Important milestones

Dr. Manfred Haehl, Boehringer Ingelheim's medical director, said the worldwide trial PRoFESS and the introduction of Actilyse in stroke "are important milestones in Boehringer Ingelheim's commitment to the development of drugs for stroke."

Because of the nature of thrombolysis, Actilyse is suitable for patients who suffer an acute ischemic stroke, which must be diagnosed using CT or MRI scanning techniques. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency (Emea) has defined specific criteria for the use of Actilyse in the labeling, which are fully supported by the manufacturer, Boehringer Ingelheim.

The main risk for a second stroke is a prior stroke due to degenerative processes in the wall of blood vessels supplying the brain. Patients at high risk of a second stroke with all its consequences readily seek preventive treatment. The vascular pathobiology of ischemic stroke is multiple and antithrombotic mechanisms in the cerebro-vascular microenvironment beyond platelet inhibition are now being discussed as potentially disease-modifying and a means of reducing ischemic stroke.

Researchers are interested in examining therapies that may have broader potential to modify the disease and reduce the recurrence of ischemic stroke.

RP, Japan construction firms to form alliance for Iraq projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE and Japanese construction firms are expected to join forces in bidding for reconstruction projects in post-war Iraq, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II.

In a statement, Roxas said several tie-ups between Philippine and Japanese construction companies were likely to be finalized soon wherein Philippine labor skills and overseas experience would complement Japanese technology in securing identified construction activities and services in Iraq's estimated $100-billion reconstruction program.

Roxas met with top officials of Marubeni Corp., Itochu Corp., Kawasho Corp., Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Nissho Iwai Corp. and Sumitomo Corp. as part of the activities scheduled during President Macapagal-Arroyo's working visit in Japan.

The President ended her 2-day Japan swing yesterday.

Roxas said Mitsubishi Corp. chair Minoru Makihara shared his optimism that Philippine and Japanese firms were most likely to take an active role in the reconstruction of Iraq.

The Philippines is assessing the performance of prospective Filipino contractors under the Constructors' Performance Evaluation System (CPES) to enhance their chances in getting Iraq contracts.

Aside from exploring partnerships with Japanese firms, Roxas said the government had also committed to address the issues raised by Japanese businessmen in the Philippines.

Roxas said the government was poised to allow Japanese firms to present their financial statements in foreign currency terms. Japanese and other foreign chambers said that foreign currency-based financial statements would conform with the reality of their operations and increase foreign investments without additional costs based on the experience of China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore.

Roxas said the government would also look into the Japanese companies' request to enjoy uniform tax perks whether they were registered with the Board of Investments, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority or the Clark Development Corp.

Roxas said the government had also promised to hasten the release of refunds of value-added tax.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines earlier expressed satisfaction over the efforts extended by various government agencies to improve the business climate in the country.

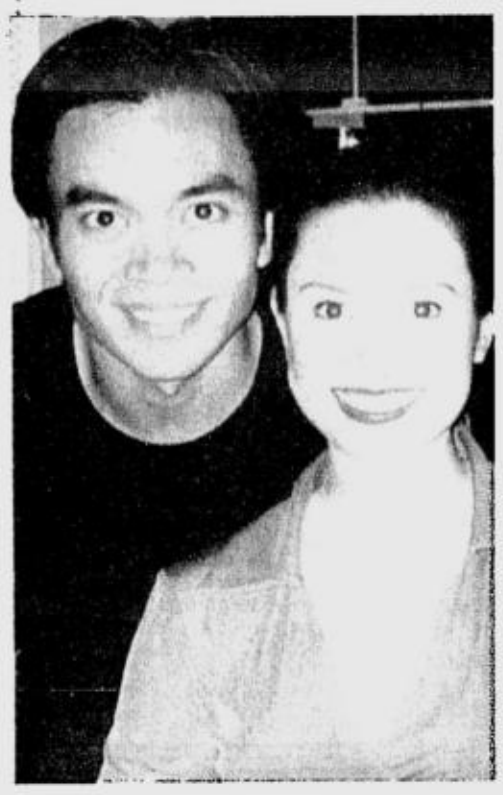
At the same time, the group raised certain issues that needed to be addressed to make the country more attractive to foreign investors.

SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Jose Llana cuts all-Filipino album



LLANA (left) with "Flower Drum Song" co-star Lea Salonga.

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, we get zapped by concocted reports about Filipino talents who make it big in the entertainment world in the United States or Europe. Most of the claims turn out to be duds, however.

Recording contract

The gifted actor who wants to set Broadway on fire ends up performing as a crossdresser in a little gay revue in the Village. The hot, young actress waits on tables, The great singer who's been promised a recording contract in New York has to make both ends meet by singing in dives. And so it goes.

Jose Llana is a different story, however. His family moved to the States when he was a tot, and early on, he served notice that his musical gift was not to be ignored.

Musical theater

As a kid in New York and Virginia, he was active in musical theater—he performed in "Once Upon a Mattress," and when he was older, he played Tony in "West Side Story."

Off-Broadway, he played Gabey in "On the Town," and was in "Saturn Returns."

When he moved to Broadway, he was Lun Tha in "The King and I," Angel in "Rent," Jesse-Lee in "Streetcorner Symphony," and Ta

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'Prince William at 21'

SEE England's Prince Williams turn 21 in a TV special to be shown on Star World at 7 p.m. on June 22, and 1:30 a.m. and 12 noon on June 23.

Prince William Arthur Philip Louis was born on June 21, 1982. He is a keen sportsman, loves the outdoors, has acted in school plays and enjoys reading and watching movies. He's a star in his own right, with many people, mostly adolescent and teenage girls, intensely interested in everything that happens to him.

"Prince William at 21" speculates about the path he will choose to take as the heir of a royal "family firm" that appears to be coming apart at the seams. What sort of king will he make? It's open season on the world's Pop Star Prince as he enters a new phase in his eventful life.

Garces and De Villa

After receiving Emmanuel S. Espino's request for information about film directors Armando Garces and Jose de Villa, we looked through our files and found that De Villa directed mostly melodramas, and was a character actor in his own right.

For his part, Garces was a versatile director who was best known for megging psychologically-oriented films and movies about troubled and rebellious youth. He sustained a youthful and energetic approach to filmmaking, and was credited for eliciting outstanding performances from his actors.

Films on TV

On HBO: Saturday, June 7 at 9 p.m., "The Score." 11 p.m., "The Specialist." Sunday, June 8

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

at 10:30 a.m., "Almost Famous." 11 p.m., "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." 2:45 a.m., "Meatballs."

Monday, 6 a.m., "Spies Like Us." 1 p.m., "Coneheads." 2:30 p.m., "The Majestic." Tuesday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m., "Out of Africa." 5 p.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth." 12 midnight, "Hannibal." 2:15 a.m., "For Love or Country (A True Story)."

Wednesday, June 11 at 4 p.m., "Delivering Milo." Thursday, June 12 at 12:45 p.m., "Roxanne." 2:30 p.m., "The Phantom of the Opera." 4 p.m., "Radioland Murders." 9 p.m., "Cast Away." Friday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m., "American Outlaws."

On the Cinemax channel: Saturday, June 7 at 10:15 a.m., "Final Analysis." Sunday, June 8 at 6 a.m., "The Guns of Navarone." 9 p.m., "Crime Spree." 10:45 p.m., "He Sees You When You're Sleeping."

Monday, June 9 at 5:45 p.m., "Young Guns." 10:45 p.m., "Ghostbusters 2." 2:15 a.m., "The War of the Worlds." 3:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: From Comics to Cinema." Tuesday, June 10 at 3:45 p.m., "Up Periscope." 12:05 a.m., "Cape Fear."

Wednesday, June 11 at 9 p.m., "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas." Thursday, June 12 at 1:45 p.m., "Mackenna's Gold." Friday, June 13 at 1:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: This Means War." 12:25 a.m., "Blow."

GARCIA. Performs with Ogie Alcasid.

Festival Supermall anniversary

Festival Supermall at Filinvest Corporate City is celebrating its anniversary with a special concert tonight. Jaya and The Company topbill the main show at 5 p.m. at the Carousel Court on Level 2.

At 4 p.m. at the X-Site teen amusement center on Level 3, RJ Rosales and the Maneuvers perform, and Apollo Abraham is the game master.

French Film Festival

Ongoing until June 15 at the SM Megamall Preview studio is the 8th French Film Festival. Heading the lineup is "The Pianist," followed by the war drama "Amen," Benoit Jacquot's "Adolphe," the musical drama "Tosca," "Vendredi Soir" with Claire Danes, Sophie Marceau's "Parlez-moi D'Amour," "La Repetition" with Emmanuelle Beart, and the uproarious comedy, "Asterix et Obelix: Mission Cleopatre."

Ybeth in 'One Night Only'

Ybeth Garcia sings at Hard Rock Cafe at Glorietta 3 on Friday, June 13, with no less than Ogie Alcasid as her special guest.

Ogie, an award-winning singer and composer, will sing his hit songs. For her part, Ybeth will perform numbers associated with Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan, Natalie Cole, Denise Williams, Taylor Dayne and Gloria Gayner, plus cuts from her Poly East Universal album.

Rhapsody on my mind

By Ryan Cayabyab

TIU. Never ceases to amaze audiences.

WHAT a letdown. My solo piano debut with The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra got rained out! I had prepared weeks for the momentous occasion; even my lunch breaks were not spared—they were spent rehearsing and figuring out the most natural fingering and dynamics, over and over. It felt like I was back in school!

Piano major

Well, the three years I had spent as a piano major at the College of Music at UP Diliman went up in the air. Curses! All because of Chedeng. That day, I declared her persona non grata.

Seriously now, variation 18 of Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, the andante cantabile, is such a joy to play. A lot of music lovers and occasional listeners of classical music would wait patiently, twisting and turning in their seats, losing count of the variations until number 18 comes up.

And boy, when it is finally played, it is like being served the finest foie gras after waiting for hours (they still had to catch the goose), or like a simple but emotionally rendered pas de deux after a host of arabesques, grand jetes, turns and all sorts of pas de pas! It is to me like the most awaited flowering time of the flame tree after a long year.

Jealous

Chedeng frustrated its bloom. She was so jealous of the red-orange blossoms that she unleashed her torrents to smite the flame tree's fiery radiance.

—Sorry, I got carried away.

Variation 18 (out of the 24) to some is a soapy tune used as background for sudsy dramas about frustrated lovers. It reached its foamy crest when it was used as an important theme in the fantasy romance film "Somewhere in Time" starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour.

Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini is one of my alltime favorites. The best recording of this piece is still Cecile Licad's version on MasterWorks.

One Filipino pianist I was a huge fan of when I was still a teenager was Raul Sunico. He was an icon, a most revered figure at the college.

But it took more than 20 years until I had the chance to work with him in a concert: I conducted the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra that accompanied him in George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Major awards

Perhaps the most important Filipino pianist of his time is Albert Tiu. After finishing his masters in music degree at Juilliard in New York, and having won major awards in international piano competitions, Albert never ceases to amaze audiences with his boundless talent and extensive repertoire. "Blame" it on his youthful energy and rambunctious adventurism, Mr. Tiu has such an interesting take on music and how he communicates it to his listeners.

In his awe-inspiring debut with The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Russian guest conductor Dimitry Liss last year, he played a mean Tchaikowsky #1 piano concerto. Choosing a very popular concerto to play is like winning a fraction of the battle for attracting the Filipino audience. Holding their interest is another factor to consider, since one cannot change the written music. Only deeply felt personal nuances and fresh interpretations can hypnotize the listener.

For Albert to have conquered the hearts and minds of the audience that night was a triumph for live performance of serious music. Majority of the audience did not know who Albert Tiu was that night. During intermission, many came to me asking where in China he was based, or was he Singaporean, or Taiwanese perhaps?

Delight

When I told them that he is in fact Filipino, and born in Cebu, I saw delight on their faces, and pride in their remarks about how brilliantly this Filipino pianist had played.

Now, if only the same people would return to the CCP on June 14 to hear Albert Tiu play the Grieg Concerto, it will be my turn to be delighted!

I take personal pride in presenting Albert, and writing about him. He was my student in a music theory class when he was still a student at the UP College of Music, tackling both harmony and counterpoint with such ease and spontaneity that one didn't see the theory anymore, just a different level of musical experience altogether!

Magical

I could go on and on writing about how excellent a pianist Albert Tiu is, but words will never describe the truly magical, experience of performance. Unlike other art forms, great music, when played excellently, travels straight to your soul.

OK, I forgive you, Chedeng. Just don't show up on the night The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra performs Beethoven's Third, the Eroica, with the brilliant Filipino conductor Julian Quirit, and together with Albert Tiu as he plays Greig's A minor Piano Concerto. And don't invite your relatives, either! (Call 891-5610)

Impressive make-overs on 'Oprah'

By Noelani Torre

WATCHING "Oprah" is one of life's little pleasures. The show is always interesting, and each episode is obviously well-planned. Such professionalism is a welcome relief from the lackadaisical attitude of most of our own talk shows, and the intelligence behind it is a refreshing contrast to the inanity that seems to fester on local television in general.

New ideas

Another thing we like about "Oprah" is that the show never seems to run out of new ideas. Sure, Oprah does the usual talk show sit-down interview, but she also comes up with more unusual episodes that are both entertaining and informative. Of course, Oprah is engaging in her own right, and this makes the show even more enjoyable for her audience.

Oprah's done make-overs before, but in this particulart episode, titled "Just One Thing," her point was that one's whole appearance could be drastically improved by simply changing one thing about the way you usually look.

Major gripe

She invited about a dozen people who had a major gripe about one aspect of their looks, and proceeded to revamp that "just one thing." A lot of them had hair problems that were remedied by a simple change of 'do, though we must say that this "change" entailed more than just a few stylish snips here and there.

WINFREY. Restores our faith in the talk-show genre.

There was this guy who was almost fully covered in hair, for example. He was practically a walking hairball, as he had neither shaved nor gotten a trim (or even used a hairbrush by the looks of it) in 10 years. Oprah's people apparently found him on the street, but whether he lived there or was just passing by, we don't know.

Anyway, there he was, looking really hermit-like, but after all the scissors-friendly folks were done with him, he became a completely different man. With clean-shaven cheeks, a stylish haircut, and a spiffy new suit, he was totally unrecognizable!

His female counterpart hadn't shorn *her* locks in 33 years. She could sit on her ponytail, but at least she didn't have any facial hair so, when they finally cut her long locks off, she still looked like herself—a smarter version, that is.

Another hair grievance was frizz. Another lady was in tears when she described her lifelong battle with her hair. But, when fairy godmother Oprah waved her wand, all tears and frizz vanished.

Hair experts

We were interested in the long (six months) process the hair experts used, something called thermal reconditioning (or Japanese hair-straightening), but it costs $500 (that's P25,000), so we guess we'll just have to wait for Oprah to do a Philippine tour!

We also found the eyeglasses segment of personal interest as we're forever hunting for the perfect pair. The wrong pair can really mess up your face, not to mention your over-all image.

Other make-overs involved changes in clothing, make-up, even voice and teeth. The fashion mistakes were obvious to us, but the clueless makeover subjects had to be advised that "you don't have to be frumpy to be comfy," you should eschew "head-to-toe plaid" and "shapeless tents," and that you really have to "hoist those sisters up" with a good bra (this last addressed to a minister)!

Make-up blunders were equally obvious—a matter of too bright eye shadow. More interesting (and permanent) were the teeth and voice make-overs.

The guy who was bemoaning his gap-toothed existence got some pretty expensive dental work that had him grinning from ear to ear afterwards. A straight set of pearly whites can really brighten up a person's face—and it's practically a crime in the States not to have straight teeth.

Childish voice

An unfortunate woman with a shrill, childish voice was the subject of a vocal make-over. Her voice really worked against her—she couldn't get the job she wanted because she sounded too immature, and she couldn't even order pizza because the delivery people thought she was just a kid.

So Oprah had her work with her own voice therapist, and though the lady was still sounding cartoon character-ish during the show, she was on her way to a deeper, more adult way of speaking.

We enjoyed watching this episode not only because of the style tips we got, but also because it was put together really well. Accustomed as we are to talk shows that dither all over the place, Oprah's meaty but snappy show not only entertains us, it also restores our faith in the talk-show genre.

Jose Llana . . .

From page C1

in "Flower Drum Song," opposite Lea Salonga. He also played Guillaume in the touring company of "Martin Guerre."

Despite his success in the States, Llana is currently in town to cut his first all-Filipino album for Viva Records.

Happily for us, it looks like the talented Fil-American is here for a spell, because he's also performing in "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin" a concert paying tribute to our National Artists, at the CCP on July 11 and 12.

And, after that? Well, that would depend on the subsequent offers he'll get. We hope they will be enticing, because we can definitely use somebody like Jose Llana on the local musical-theater and show biz scene.

TV interviews

He's young, personable, has a great singing voice, dances well, and seems to be a genuinely nice person. For one thing, he's kept his cool despite being pressed in some TV interviews to talk about his sex life. Tack-y!

Llana certainly doesn't deserve that kind of smarmy treatment, because he's no dumb male starlet who has to strip both physically and verbally to get people to pay attention to him.

His US performing credits say it all, as well as the rave reviews he's gotten there. This is a major young talent, so tacky interviewers, bug off!

Some of Llana's press raves (just a sampling, mind you): The New York Observer: "The assured, hip Mr. Llana is a star in the making!"

Solid performance

The New York Sun: "Jose Llana comes closest to giving 'Flower Drum Song' a center. His Ta is a solid performance. Mr. Llana is responsible for many of the show's winning moments."

The New York Times: "Another high point of 'Saturn Returns' is the ravishingly beautiful 'Hero and Leander,' sung by Jose Llana, a powerful theatrical crooner who seems to be the composer's alter ego."

The New York Post: "Jose Llana has the company's loveliest voice. In terms of both tonal beauty and purity of spirit, he is well chosen to sing 'Lonely Town.'

—With notices like those, how can you lose? Let's just hope that Llana speaks Filipino well—or learns to do so as fast as he can.

Otherwise, like most *balikbayan* talents, he'll be relegated to the usual, second-lead, English-speaking roles, and he's too good a talent to cool his heels in that kind of local show biz limbo.

Rochelle Pangilinan is hesitant about going solo

By Edmund L. Sicam

DOORS are starting to open for Rochelle Pangilinan, acknowledged leader of the Sex Bomb Girls. She is one of Bong Revilla's two leading ladies (the other is Regine Tolentino) in Imus Productions' action-fantasy film "Bertud ng Putik." Despite her inexperience, she's gotten a lead role that many newbies would die for.

Front and center

Rochelle takes front and center when she does the daily "Eat Bulaga" with the Girls. She appears regularly in a supporting role on GMA's "Daboy en Da Girl" with Rudy Fernandez. So, is Rochelle ready to embark on a solo career and leave Sex Bomb?

Rochelle is uncomfortable when I pop the question. *"Darating po siguro yon kung pare-pareho na kaming may pupuntahan. Mahal ko pa sila. Kawawa naman yung iba,"* she replies.

I keep prodding her to think seriously about her solo career but she feels like she'd be betraying the other girls. She says she will only go solo if all the other girls are already successful.

She's not ready to accept that she is the most talented in the group. On the solo opportunities that she's getting, she says, *"Suwerte lang siguro.* It's my year."

Luck does play an important part in show biz, but that's not the main factor. When asked why Imus chose Rochelle to be one of his leading ladies, Bong Revilla says it's the "X" factor. "She projects well on the screen. *Malayo'ng mararating ni* Rochelle."

Sexy image

Despite her sexy image on "Eat Bulaga," Rochelle is not ready to do what Assunta De Rossi did in her team-up with Bong in "Si Kilabot at si Kembot." She has a tender kissing scene with the VRB chairman and no nude scenes. Her love scenes with Bong are unusual in that Bong is supposed to be invisible, so Rochelle is actually alone onscreen.

PANGILINAN. Shooting her movie with Bong Revilla wreaked havoc on her schedule.

Her first day on the set was nerve-wracking. *"Hindi ko ma-*deliver *ang* lines *ko. Namumutla ako. Kasi takot akong magalit si Kuya* Bong." She got over her nervousness after the first day.

Doing the movie wreaked havoc on Rochelle's schedule. She would shoot in the morning, report to "Eat Bulaga" at 11 a.m., return to the movie set in the afternoon, and do live shows at night with the Girls.

That's probably why she doesn't have time for love. She has a long-distance relationship with her boyfriend who is in Japan, so the press has been prodding her to find someone else. With her hectic schedule, however, that's going to be difficult.

Referee

Rochelle takes her role as leader of the Sex Bomb Girls seriously. She referees all disagreements in the group, although these are usually about petty matters like make-up being misplaced, etc. They've never fought about boys or money.

She seldom gets angry, but when she does, *"Nagdidilim ang paningin ko at hindi ko na alam kung nasaan ako."*

This girl believes in clean living. When she finally embarks on a solo career, will she be able to hold off producers who want her to show more than she dares to bare on "Eat Bulaga"? That's the most difficult question she'll have to answer when her film career really gets going.

Danny Holmsen is fondly remembered

By Lynn S. Pareja

DANNY Holmsen was one of the kindest, most generous and most soft-spoken gentlemen I have ever known. We knew each other from way back in the 1950s, when we were both starting to write movie columns. He was a man who couldn't harm a flea and it is numbingly ironic that he recently met his end in so violent a manner.

Career

In 1954, Dr. Perez tapped Danny Holmsen as musical director of "Anak sa Panalangin," starring Gloria Romero and Ramon Revilla. It was directed by Octavio Silos. This started his career as musical director at Sampaguita Pictures. Eventually, he was also tapped to try his hand at movie directing.

His first directorial assignment was one of the episodes in the seven-story anthology, "Sweet Valentines," 1963. His episode, "Some Enchanted Evening," starred Susan Roces and Eddie Gutierrez. Making the movie was a memorable experience that brought him closer to the stars he worked with.

He directed Tirso Cruz III and Aurora Salve in "Fiesta Extravaganza," 1971. On that same year he also megged "Sweet Matutina" with Jay Ilagan, Marifi, and Rudy Fernandez. Rudy was a contract star of Sampaguita Pictures before he became a big action star with "Baby Ama," which was made outside the studio.

Singing contests

As a well-known musical director, Danny was often called upon to judge singing contests like "Tawag ng Tanghalan," where

HOLMSEN (left) with the author (right) in the 1960s.

Nora Aunor became a champion. He was also musical director of presentations at the Araneta Coliseum, like the Timi Yuro show, where Nora did the front act.

Danny first tried his hand at scriptwriting for a Nora-Tirso film he co-wrote with Sampaguita scenarist Medy Tarnate. They wrote the screenplay of "Nasaan Ka, Inay," which was directed by Mar S. Torres. Later, Danny co-directed (with Torres) the Sampaguita-VP film, "And God Smiled At Me," which won acting awards for Nora and Tirso at the Quezon City Film Festival. The movie also won the Best Picture trophy.

In "Young at Heart," Danny directed the musical numbers and was musical director of the film, which was again megged by Torres.

But his biggest challenge came when Dr. Perez asked him to direct "Guy and Pip," which marked the return of Nora Aunor to Sampaguita Pictures. The film made box-office history.

Danny also directed Nora and Tirso in "My Little Brown Girl," "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Hindi Kita Malimot," and "A Gift of Love," which was filmed in Los Angeles, California. On "My Blue Hawaii," Danny and German Moreno were co-directors.

The first movie where Nora and Danny worked together outside Sampaguita as star and musical director was "Bahay Kubo."

Familiar figure

Danny was a familiar figure at the Gilmore studio in Quezon City where he managed the Sampaguita canteen for the longest time. Many returning Sampaguita *balikbayan* stars would make a beeline to see him the moment they entered the studio gates. His smiling face, ever glad to see them, became a welcome sight. His eagerness to please, to be accommodating and helpful, was sincerity personified.

Danny, we who have been your friends all these years sorely miss you, your music and your gentle persuasion. May you rest in peace with the Lord!

Star Circle introduces 11th batch of talents

By Nestor U. Torre

ABS-CBN's Talent Center has just introduced its 11th batch of Star Circle talents. Like the scores of promising young talents before them, these new starlets dream of attaining TV-film stardom as quickly as possible, and going on to enjoy longterm careers in the biz.

Unknowns

At the moment, however, most of them are complete unknowns. To fast-track their ascent to the top, they're being featured in a number of ABS-CBN programs, where their screen personas are slowly but surely being built up.

It's too early to focus on individual talents at this stage. In general, however, we can share these observations and reactions to the Star Circle 11 best bets:

• There are too many of them. This makes it difficult to tell one promising unknown from the others, so it also makes each talent's effort to get noticed that much harder. For Batch 12, we suggest that only four female and four male talents should be launched.

High standards

This would mean a more rigorous pre-selection process, higher standards for beauty, talent, charisma and work ethic, and greater resistance to pressures coming from all over to favor one candidate over another.

But the adjustments would be well worth it, because the eight Batch 12 bets could already be winners in their own right, and could be individually built up in a more focused and productive way.

• We also notice that most Batch 11 starlets are *tisoy* types. This is to be expected since local TV is oriented towards western standards of beauty, due to our colonial mentality that simply refuses to disappear. But the cumulative effect of all those pale, foreign-looking faces is blandness, which makes it more difficult for individual starlets to stand out.

DUSTIN REYES. One of Star Circle's new finds.

• In terms of character type, there's greater diversity in this new batch of Star Circle talents, and that's all to the good. While most of them appear to be aiming for lead roles, some starlets are character actor or comedian types, and we certainly need more of those on the big and small screens.

Good teeth

Tangentially, we also note that practically all of this batch of starlets have good teeth. Was that a major requirement for making it this year? Well, toothpaste commercials won't be lacking for models, that's for sure!

Still, we wish that Star Circle's talent selection and development process could also have stressed more important performing requirements like real singing or acting ability, versatility, ability to project oneself, etc.

We say this because, when we watch these Batch 11 talents on different TV shows, we note that they're big on energy and enthusiasm, but low on actual performing skills.

For example, the talent who says he want to become a comedy star doesn't look, talk and act in a very bemusing way. And, when they're asked to talk about themselves, many of the new starlets dry up, or fall back on the same, old platitudes that eager-to-please starlets have been spouting for decades.

Of course, it's true that the young TV-film audience doesn't really require talents to do very much. If they look good, that's good enough for many adolescent and teen viewers. But experience shows that many of these starlets with mostly face value going for them don't last very long.

We need new TV-film talents who can develop their abilities through the years, and end up as the next generation's Vilma Santos or Aga Muhlach. So, Star Circle should focus on quality instead of quantity, and give a boost only to the truly exceptional talents out there, few though they may be.

More successful

Having said all this, we must note that ABS-CBN is more successful in discovering and developing new talents than GMA-7, which tends to make-do with stars coming from the other channel.

We wish that GMA's own artist center would shake a leg this year and develop its own homegrown stars, who could also be productively utilized and built up further by the TV network's sister company, GMA Films, which is reportedly going bact to producing movies in the coming months.

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- Isulat sa papel ang letra ng tamang sagot at programa kung saan napanood ang promo TV spot. Isama rin ang promo week number, kumpletong pangalan, address, telephone number at signature.

#2. SIS

- Manood ng SIS mula Lunes hanggang Biyernes at abangan ang Pang-Eswelang Handog ng GMA at P&G, Umaga Hanggang Gabi Promo Question for the day. Example. *ANONG RECIPE ANG NILUTO NI GELLI? (A) KARE-KARE (B) MENUDO (C) ADOBO*
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All entries must include one (1) of the following Proof of Purchase:

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- Six (6) sachets Rejoice Shampoo, any variant or
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TANDAAN:

- *ISA* lang sa dalawang paraan ang dapat gawin para makasali.
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- All entries shall be valid for the grand raffle draw to be held in SOP.
- Grand raffle draw shall be held on-air in SOP and shall have eight (8)winners of P250,000, plus a personal computer worth P20,000.00.
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OTHER DETAILS:

- All P&G, GMA Network, Starcom Media, and its Creative/Promo Agencies and their relatives up to the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
- Breakdown of weekly winners. 15 from NCR, 10 from Luzon, 5 from Visayas, 5 from Mindanao
- Breakdown of Grand Draw winners. 2 from NCR, 2 from Luzon, 2 from Visayas, 2 from Mindanao.
- Tampered and damaged entries shall be invalidated.
- Proof of Purchase pack must be at least 70% complete
- Winners shall have until sixty (60) days from the date of the notification to claim their prizes. All prizes will be claimed in locations specified in registered mail.
- Winners may claim their prizes by presenting valid identification papers (office-school ID, SSS or GSIS number, drivers license, passport, etc)
- Participants can only win once in the Weekly Draw & once in the Grand Draw.
- All prizes are non convertible and non-transferable.
- ALL PRIZES ARE TAX FREE!

IMPORTANT DATES:

WEEK NO	DATE COVERED	CUT OFF	RAFFLE DATE
1	21 Apr - 27 Apr	01 May	08 May
2	28 Apr - 04 May	09 May	15 May
3	05 May - 11 May	16 May	22 May
4	12 May - 18 May	23 May	29 May
5	19 May - 25 May	30 May	05 June
6	26 May - 01 June	06 June	12 June
7	02 June - 08 June	13 June	19 June
8	09 June - 15 June	20 June	26 June
9	16 June - 22 June	27 June	03 July
10	23 June - 29 June	04 July	10 July
11	30 June - 06 July	11 July	17 July
GRAND DRAW	21 Apr - 06 July	16 July	22 July

PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT #0286, SERIES OF 2003

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 PAKNERS	1 DARKNESS FALLS	ArtFilm WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 ANG TANGING INA 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG TANGING INA	5 THE REAL CANCUN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	4 DARKNESS FALLS
	6 ANG TANGING INA	CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 DARKNESS FALLS 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 8:50, 8:55, 11:00	5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
	7 THE MATRIX RELOADED			

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	ANG TANGING INA
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6 (DOLBY SDDS)	DARKNESS FALLS
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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4	PAKNER

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
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3	ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE VERDICT
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	KAPIT BAHAY
4	ANG TANGING INA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALL
4	KIKAY
5	PAKNER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SEX AND ZEN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SEX AND ZEN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PHONE BOOTH
4	PAKNER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PAKNER
2	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	RING - 0

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	DARKNESS FALLS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	DAYO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	AGENT CODY BANKS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Level 4
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173869

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	THE REAL CANCUN
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	PAKNERS
5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	BIGAY HILIG
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	BIGAY HILIG
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	THE REAL CANCUN
7	AGENT CODY BANKS
8	PAKNERS
9	DARKNESS FALLS
10	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	ANG KAPITBAHAY
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	FRIDA
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5	PAKNERS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	DARKNESS FALLS
8	BIGAY HILIG
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	AGENT CODY BANKS
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12	THE REAL CANCUN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3	RING 0
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	BIGAY HILIG
8	THE REAL CANCUN
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	THE VERDICT
11	PAKNERS
12	ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	THE REAL CANCUN
6	THE 8TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
7	AGENT CODY BANKS
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	DARKNESS FALLS
11	PAKNERS
12	BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	THE REAL CANCUN
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7	DARKNESS FALLS
8	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE REAL CANCUN
2	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	ANG KAPITBAHAY
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	DARKNESS FALLS
9	PAKNERS
10	BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	"WHATEVER IT TAKES"
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	A MAN APART
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5	RING 0
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	SO CLOSE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	WILLARD
2	CLOSED
3	SO CLOSE
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	CLOSED
8	SOULKEEPER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	A MAN APART
2	PHONEBOOTH
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6	SO CLOSE

SM BICUTAN
778-3055

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BIGAY HILIG
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
659-2884

1	PHONEBOOTH
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	RING 0
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-0976

1	DARKNESS FALLS 11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:30/3:45/5:50/7:55/ 9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:35 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:35/2:40/4:45/6:50/ 8:55/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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633-7641 loc. 279

THX	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20, 9:30LMF,11:10 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	REAL CANCUN
4	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	FRIDA
8	MATRIX
9	AGENT CODY BANKS
10	BIGAY HILIG

MATINEE PRICE: P90 (THX cinema / P75 (Level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536-7809-12

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	PAKNERS
4	REAL CANCUN
5	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	DARKNESS FALLS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682-8193 / 8280

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	REAL CANCUN
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	PAKNERS
8	BIGAY HILIG

Novaliches
935-3229-30

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	REAL CANCUN
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	PAKNERS
8	BIGAY HILIG

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	BIGAY HILIG

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	KIKAY
2	PAKNERS
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	DARKNESS FALLS

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	REAL CANCUN
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	BIGAY HILIG
6	ANG TANGING INA

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	KIKAY
5	PAKNERS

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SO CLOSE
4	PHONEBOOTH
5	RING 0
6	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Iloilo
336-8077-78

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	WILLARD
3	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	SOUL KEEPER
5	TANGING INA
6	SO CLOSE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

New Jim Carrey starrer clicks with comedy fans

By Noelani Torre

WE used to not like Jim Carrey. We found him too manic, and his toilet humor was a tad too juvenile to be funny. We changed our mind, however, when we saw his performance in "The Truman Show," "Man on the Moon" and yes, even in that flopfest titled "The Majestic."

CARREY. His antics are no longer confined to frenzied mugging.

Comedy

He showed that his antics weren't confined to frenzied mugging. Still, that apparently didn't impress his fans, who didn't exactly turn out in droves to watch the later two films. But that's ancient history—the box office success of his new comedy, "Bruce Almighty," shows that he has redeemed himself in their eyes, and has been forgiven.

"Bruce Almighty" is definitely a grade-A gut-buster. We laughed practically throughout the movie, sometimes even against our better judgment—especially in that butt joke scene involving a monkey which, despite its juvenileness, we found unexpectedly hilarious.

What-if premise

The movie rests on a what-if premise: if you had God's powers, what would you do with them?

NEW/ C6

MTRCB RATING: R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

AMAZING
THELMA ADAMS, US WEEKLY

AN INCREDIBLE RIDE
JOEL SIEGEL, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

EXCITINGLY SUBVERSIVE
ELVIS MITCHELL, THE NEW YORK TIMES

'RELOADED' LEAVES YOU HUNGRY FOR MORE
DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

MATRIX RELOADED

KEANU REEVES | LAURENCE FISHBURNE | CARRIE-ANNE MOSS

www.thematrix.com
AOL Keyword: Matrix Reloaded

NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	DARKNESS FALLS
Ali 5	REAL CANCUN
Ali 6	BIGAY HILIG
Ali 7	MATRIX RELOADED

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 8	PBA GAMES
JUNE 9 & 11	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 26	NCAA OPEN CEREMONIES

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ELEPHANT SHOW
REOPENING SOON !
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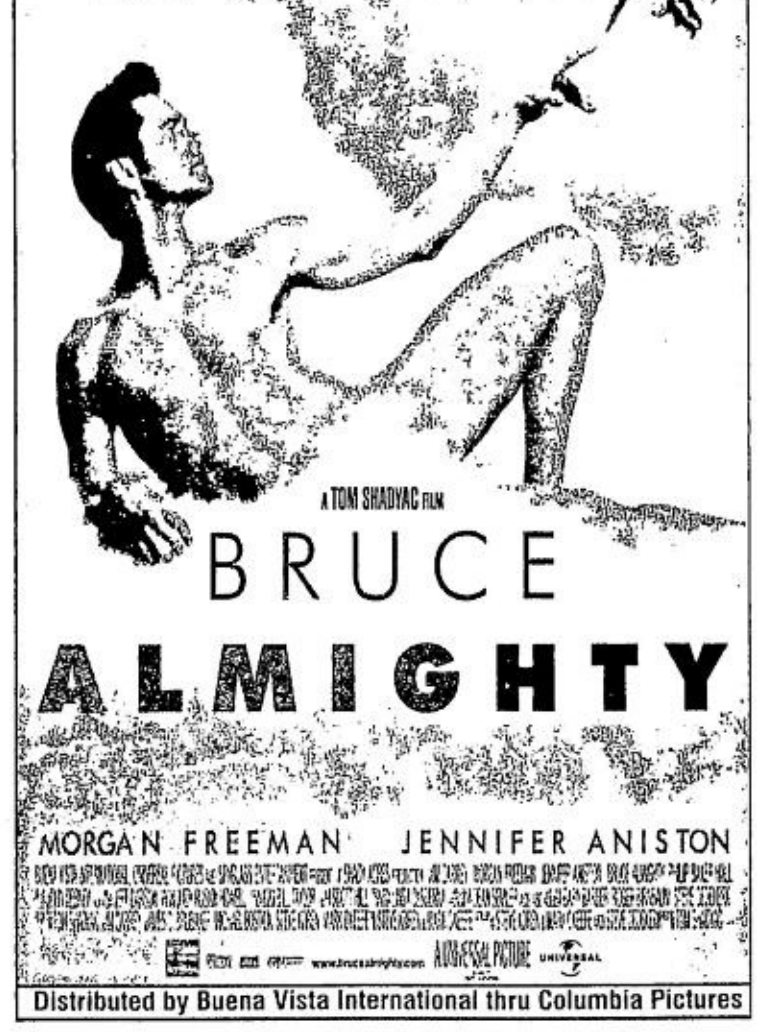
START 4PM (DAILY)

THE COMEDY EVENT OF THE YEAR !
SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING: PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

JIM CARREY

IF YOU COULD BE GOD FOR ONE WEEK, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



A TOM SHADYAC FILM

BRUCE ALMIGHTY

MORGAN FREEMAN JENNIFER ANISTON

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	636-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REAL CANCUN
CINEMA-12	VERDICT
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

the Ayala Mall Events

AYALA CENTER CEBU | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU

Father's Day at the Ayala Malls

AYALA CENTER
Fun and Entertainment - Watch the show and join the Father and Son games to win lots of prizes.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Motortown 2003, Alabang Town Center Car Show June 9-15, 2003

Basketball Play Pass Promo - Dads get one (1) basketball pass at Toby's or Olympic World for a minimum purchase of P500 at any ATC establishment.

Father's Day Treats at Food Choices at the Town - Free iced tea refill at any Food Choices establishment for every P100 food purchase.

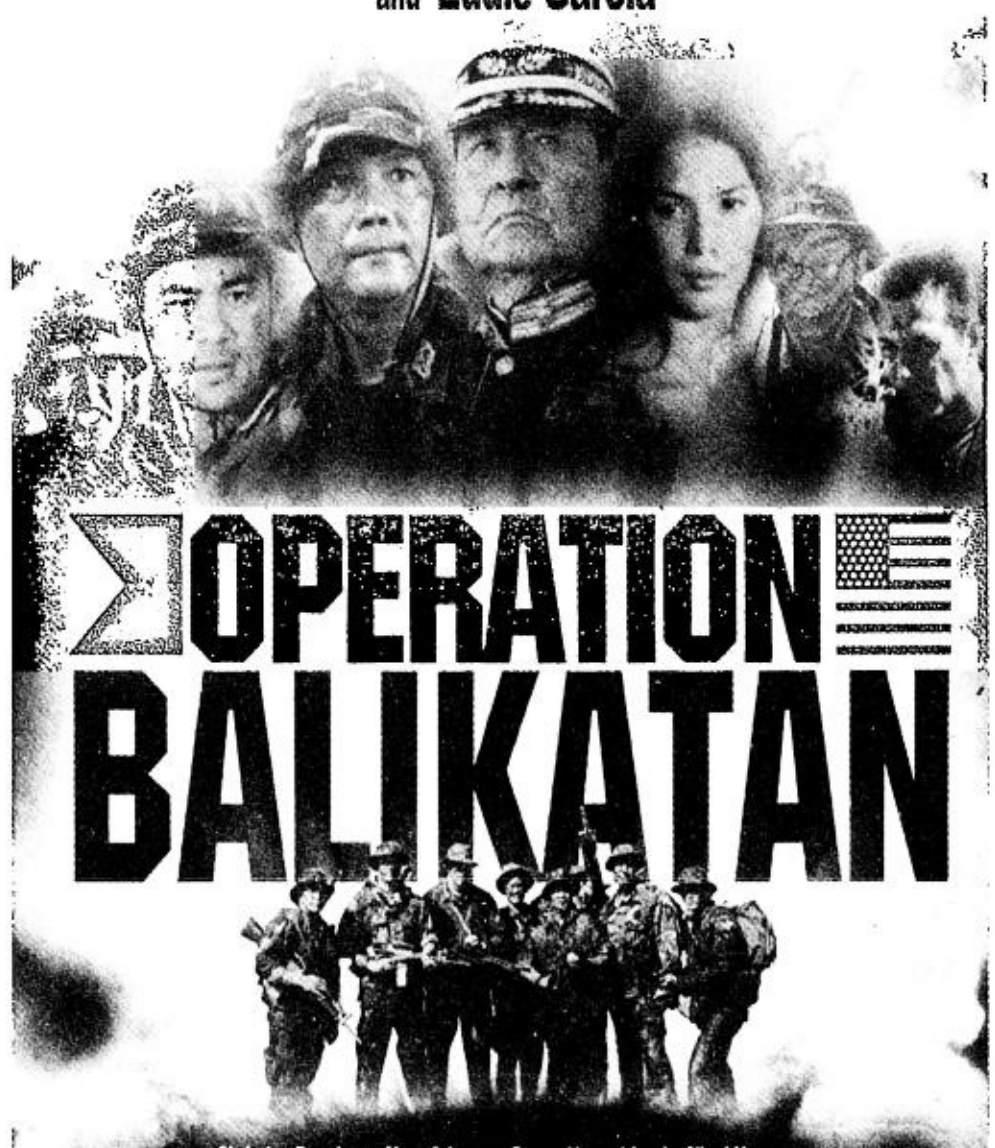
AYALA CEBU
Instant Win Promo - Free bottle of wine for the first 300 shoppers per day from June 13-15 who can present P1,000 worth of receipt from any Ayala Center Cebu's stores (except Metro Ayala).

Fun and Entertainment - Special show featuring Marissa Sanchez and Ate Glow.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more. . .
www.ayalamalls.com.ph www.ayalaland.com.ph

KONTROBERSYAL NA PAGSASANIB-PWERSA.
BANATAN AT RATRATANG WALANG TINITIRA.
PELIKULANG MAS MAINIT PA SA MGA BALITA!

Rey Malonzo ☆ Patricia Javier ☆ Monsour del Rosario
and Eddie Garcia



OPERATION BALIKATAN

Christian Boeving Nate Adams Davee Youngblood Nigel Hogge

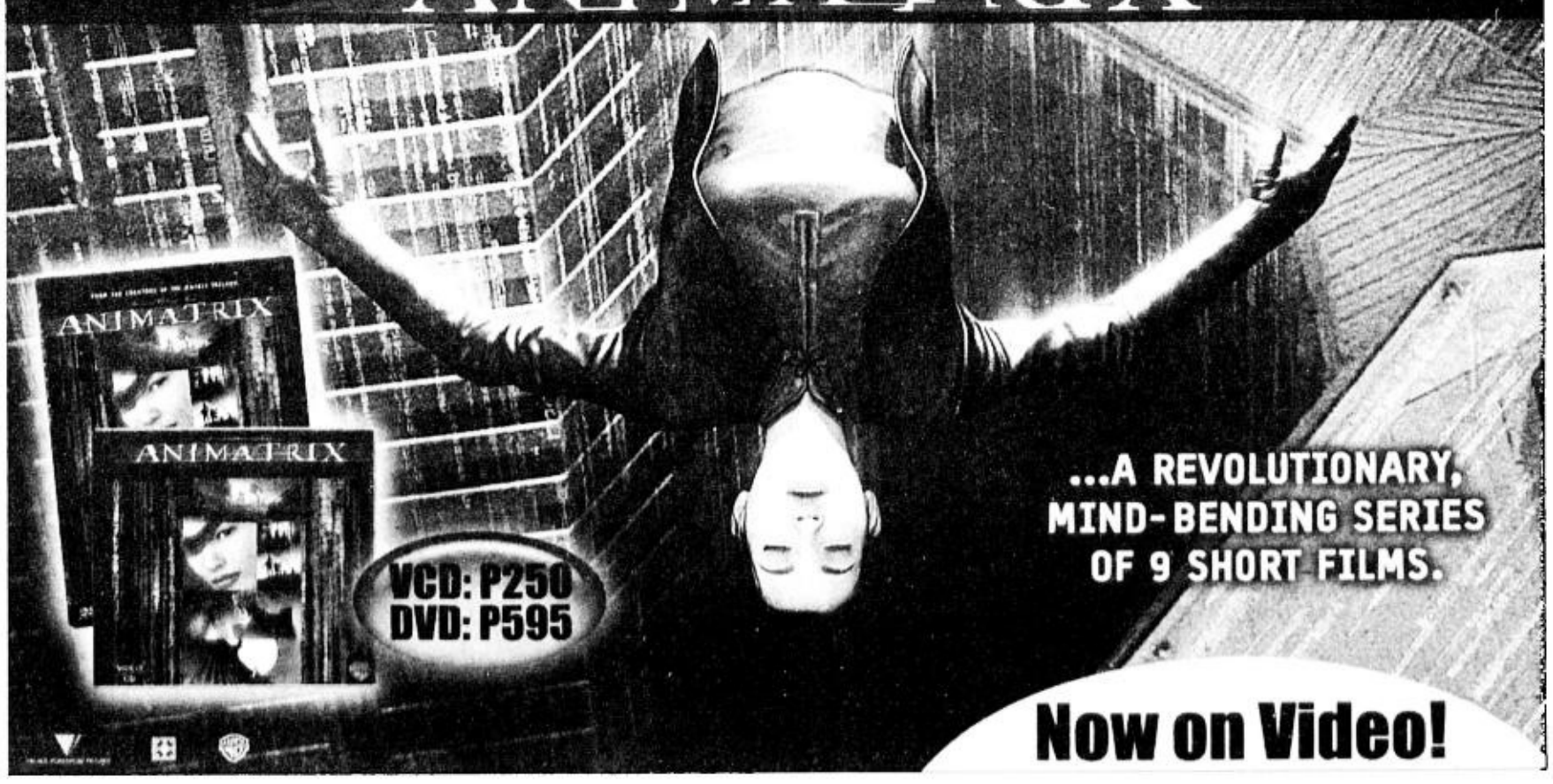
WALANG TITIGILAN... WALANG UURUNGAN...
Laban sa terorismo!

Directed by CIRIO H. SANTIAGO

ABANGAN SA JUNE 11

FROM THE CREATORS OF THE MATRIX TRILOGY.

THE ANIMATRIX



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KAILAN KA HULING SUMAMBA NG BIRHEN?

Ang huling birhen sa lupa

ARA at MAUI

TALAGANG MAGKAKASALA KA!

DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI

NEO FILMS

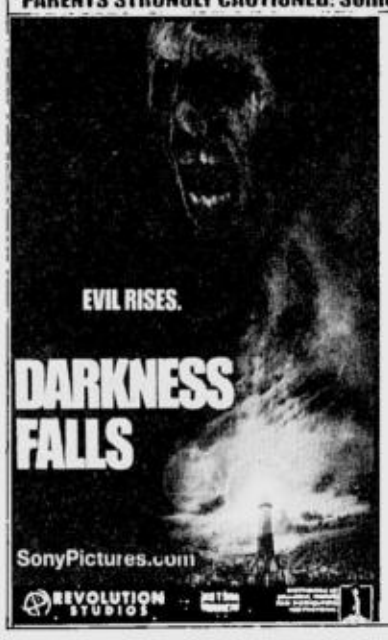
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

OPENS JUNE 11

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13



'Darkness Falls'

Scream all you can !

Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.

A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.

You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES

AN AYALA CINEMAS EXCLUSIVE

MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

OPENS JUNE 11 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3

AYALA CINEMAS

Buena Vista International

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

Fall in-love with this year's most kilig movie!

Christopher de Leon & Regine Velasquez

Dingdong Dantes

Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka

PELIKULA NI LOUIE LAGDAMEO IGNACIO

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OPENS JUNE 11

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CARDINAL UNPLUGGED

AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BISHOP RAFAEL FOUNDATION

JUNE 13, 2003 - 8:00 PM

ONSTAGE THEATER GREENBELT 1

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or call 891-5610 / 687-1261

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT

AYALA CINEMAS

Greenbelt 1 Art Film & GLORIETTA 4

Getting the alias was half the battle. Surviving it is the other.

WHO IS

CLETIS TOUT?

CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS, PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN

A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
– Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

SKYFLAKES

New Jim Carrey . . .

From page C5

TV reporter Bruce Nolan, Jim Carrey's character, is the lucky (or unlucky) fellow who gets singled out for this honor, and he proceeds to botch up the job—he's only human, after all.

Bruce Nolan is a frustrated Eyewitness News reporter who's set his sights on an anchor job—and when it lands on his worst rival's lap instead, he goes absolutely berserk.

This gets him fired, of course, and then he has a fight with his long-suffering girlfriend; the aptly named Grace (Jennifer Aniston). So, he rages at God and, guess what, God counters with an "OK, so *you* do it."

Morgan Freeman, who is God in a white suit, is cool and unflappable. He plays God well, with just the right mix of warmth and gravity, and he's not at all upstaged by Carrey's hyperactivity.

He hands the reins over to Bruce (though not all of them obviously—he wouldn't be God if he were that irresponsible), and tells him to take the job if he thinks he can do it better.

Powers

So what does Bruce do with all those powers? Well, not much— but the film's makers come up with side-splitting gags that push this thought out of our mind.

There's the parting of the tomato soup gag, a funny mock-up of Moses' parting of the Red Sea, and the aforementioned monkey butt joke—where a monkey pops out of a goon's behind.

Bruce uses his divine clout to "fix up" his life. He gets his job back when he "just happens" to be around with a camera when Jimmy Hoffa's body is dug up.

He gets tagged as "Mr. Exclusive" when he "just happens" to be around when other major news is happening—like an asteroid crash.

The funniest gag isn't a Carrey solo, however—it's done by Bruce's rival, played by Steve Carell (of Comedy Central fame), whom Bruce turns into a mushmouth during broadcast. His voice gets high and squeaky, and he spews out a stream of gibberish with the most deadpan expression on his face.

Personal life

Bruce fixes up his personal life, as well—training his dog to use the toilet (Grace barging in on a newspaper-reading dog on the potty is pretty funny), and lassoing the moon closer (shades of "It's a Wonderful Life") to give Grace a more "romantic" view.

Bruce doesn't use his powers for the greater good, however, and his stunts, like answering "yes" to all the prayers from the Buffalo area, create more chaos than order.

He even alienates his girlfriend, whom he can't compel to love him because of "that free will thing." His selfishness grates, but it is understandable (to err is human, etc.), and his manic antics divert us. He finally gives up when he realizes that he is not at all equipped to be God. Only God can do that!

Director Tom Shadyac manages to keep the film light despite its tendency towards weightiness (this is about God, after all), though he may have tried a little too hard.

The film could have done with more of that "world peace" and "feed the hungry" bit that Bruce speaks of in the end, if only to add to the redemption of a character whose imagination is active, but is set too low. After all, it you're God, the sky's not even the limit!

Why we hold both Nora and Vilma in high regard

By Nestor U. Torre

TWO weeks ago, we wrote about Nora Aunor's "Gold" concert. Last Saturday, we covered Vilma Santos' reunion bash with her fans. A colleague observes, "NUT, you have no principles—you're both a Noranian *and* a Vilmanian!"

Guilty as charged.

Rival stars

But we hasten to explain that our "unprincipled" stance is the result of our working and reviewing experiences with the two rival stars.

Knowing both of them for so long, we think we've sized them up pretty well, and admire them equally because we think the local film scene can use more of the exceptional performances they have turned in for decades now.

We first got to work with Nora right after she had won the "Tawag ng Tanghalan" singing tilt. She was merely a slip of a girl when she guested on "Two for the Road," the late-night talk-variety show hosted by Elvira Manahan, which we directed in the '70s.

Since Nora's slot in the show had a pretty complicated format, we asked her to go to the studio hours before telecast time, and put her through her paces in a long rehearsal.

We were pleasantly surprised to see the new "Tawag" champion working very hard to assimilate everything she had to do during her musical numbers.

Clearly, there was a sharp, disciplined mind at work behind that *promdi* exterior. We also sensed that she was quietly determined to get everything right, because she didn't want to be criticized.

Well, she did very well when she performed on the show, and even Elvira, who had high standards for performers since she'd seen the best that the world had to offer, was impressed.

Mental note

We made a mental note to keep an eye out for little Ms Aunor, and reviewed her TV and film performances in succeeding years.

Soon after, Tagalog Ilang-Ilang Productions tapped us to script some of its new projects, starting with a film topbilling the movie studio's top teen attraction, Vilma Santos, and her screen consort, Edgar Mortiz.

When we dropped by the shooting site, we met "Vi and Bot," and were again pleasantly surprised to see that they were much more with-it than their *pa*-cute screen image at the time indicated. They were very young, they were enjoying themselves, but they were also hard-working professionals.

So, our first impression of both Nora and Vilma was positive, despite their being teen idols who were caught up in the more frivolous aspects of show business. As a result, we found ourselves relating well to them, not just as actors but also as people.

AUNOR AND SANTOS. More memorable film performances coming up!

We wrote quite a number of scripts for Vilma, including the screenplay for "Dama de Noche," which turned out to be the first film that gave her an acting award. This was a big deal for Vi because she was very frustrated at the time due to the fact that she was always losing to Nora in acting derbies in the '70s. Thus, when she won her Famas trophy, she felt vindicated.

It was when "Dama de Noche" was being shot that we had an instructive experience with Vilma. She played a mentally disturbed girl in the story, and there was one scene in which she was supposed to dance her way through a forest. Somebody had interpreted this to mean that the dance would be a choreographed number, so a ballet-like dance costume had been made for Vilma!

Dance costume

When we got to the movie set that day, Vilma showed us her dance costume, and we were shocked. We explained that the "dance" was supposed to be spontaneous, thus unchoreographed-and uncostumed!

After our explanation, Vilma returned the costume to the production people, and simply "danced" the scene as her mentally challenged character would, spontaneously.

This experience told us that, despite her young age then, Vilma was determined to do her job well, and once she understood how a scene should be done, she would insist on doing it the right way, no matter if she ruffled the feelings of some people in the production.

Good working relationship

Our big experience with Nora was when we were tapped to write and direct a film for her own movie production company. We shot the film for one month in Baguio. We had a rough start at first, but we eventually developed a good working relationship, and became friends. After the film was put in the can, Nora asked us to direct her in other projects, but we had to beg off because we had to go abroad for an extended period.

Still, we kept track of Nora through the years, regarding her as one of our friends in the biz. When we talked to her some weeks ago, she said she wanted to work with us again, and we agreed.

We trust that these recollections clarify why we hold both Nora and Vilma in high regard. We've come to conclude that their positive traits outweigh their negative aspects, and we value and love them for what they are. Besides, Filipino viewers need more memorable performances from them in the years to come!

TV host TJ Manotoc is 'a celebrity in denial'

By Agnes P. de Guzman and Ronald G. Mangubat

"I'M a celebrity in denial," says TV host TJ Manotoc when asked how he manages to remain unaffected by all the attention he's been getting.

At 26, Thomas Pijuan Manotoc Jr. feels like he has tried it all. A former basketball coach, he stumbled into commercial and ramp modeling several years ago.

Radio

Today, TJ is one of the hosts of GMA-7's morning program "Unang Hirit" and is also heard on radio every Monday morning on 918 AM, where he hosts a sports talk show. What's the next move? A movie career?

TJ says he is open to the idea, but his main focus is still on improving his skills as a TV host. Q and A:

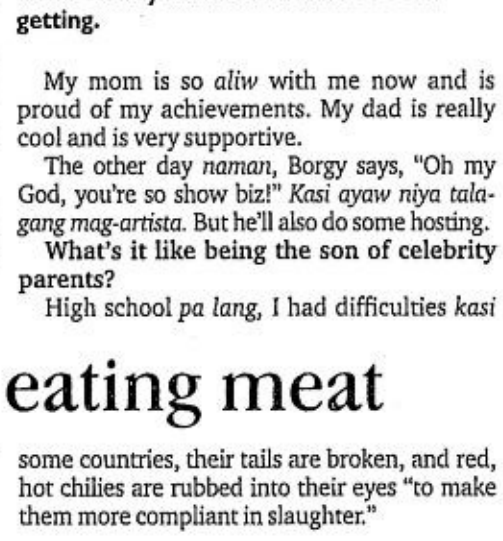
You never really imagined yourself as a TV personality?

No way! We used to think that people on TV were so *baduy*. Well, look at me now! (laughs)

What do your friends say about your show biz career?

I'm starting to be teased by my friends. *Oy, artista ka na* Yuck, show biz! And I say, you know what? *Titiisin ko yang mga tukso ninyo kasi* I'm earning more than you! (laughs)

What about your family?



MANOTOC. Has managed to remain unaffected by all the attention he's been getting.

My mom is so *aliw* with me now and is proud of my achievements. My dad is really cool and is very supportive.

The other day *naman*, Borgy says, "Oh my God, you're so show biz!" *Kasi ayaw niya talagang mag-artista.* But he'll also do some hosting.

What's it like being the son of celebrity parents?

High school *pa lang*, I had difficulties *kasi* people always said *anak ako ni* Tommy Manotoc *at* Aurora Pijuan.

Humble

Malaki ang expectations *sa 'yo ng tao.* But I've really kept my feet on the ground and learned to be humble.

How is your relationship with Borgy and your other half-brothers?

A lot of people are surprised at how close we are. When we introduce ourselves to other people, we just say this is my brother, *wala na yung* half-half. They lived with me for five months in our townhouse in Alabang. Imagine putting all of us four guys in one bedroom?! It was really mayhem. They'd steal my clothes and underwear!

How do you deal with rumors?

Let them talk! (laughs) I don't have much to hide.

What's the real TJ Manotoc like?

I'm so simple. I don't have any hang-ups about this celebrity thing. I may seem like a *mababaw*, jolly person but I'm a very deep thinker. I'm also very goal-oriented.

Addicted to eating meat

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

MOST of us don't want death to be a terribly painful and fearful experience. But we live in a society where we allow the horrible mass execution of various species of living entities under extremely painful conditions.

Red marks

I often see pigs transported to the slaughterhouse and used to think that the red marks on their backs were pen markings of some sort. I was shaken out of my ignorance when someone explained that those were slash marks made with sharp blades. "Why do people do such things?" I asked. It was to keep the pigs focused on their pain so that they would not fight with each other.

Just recently, I read an article describing how cows are treated before they are slaughtered. In some countries, their tails are broken, and red, hot chilies are rubbed into their eyes "to make them more compliant in slaughter."

Local chicken dish

There is one type of local chicken dish prepared by badgering the chicken to death. The throat is not slit but the whole body is beaten. The meat becomes swollen and blood clots form. People who eat this dish say the meat is more delicious and tender.

But we do not need to kill animals in order to live. Studies even show that meatless diets are far more beneficial to our health and the environment. But we go on killing animals. We refuse to see their pain and suffering because our tongues crave the taste of blood. We are addicted to meat.

When our hearts change and we no longer see meat as food but as the body of an animal that has been executed to satisfy our addiction, then we can begin to lessen the pain and suffering of others and ourselves. When there is respect for all living beings, the cruelty can end.

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SATURDAY Special

SCHWARZENEGGER. Bemoans the roles he turned down that won Oscars for other actors.

Arnold shows his lighter side

NEW YORK—Hollywood action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger says he has nightmares at the prospect of bikini waxing and covets classy footwear in the June edition of Vanity Fair magazine.

Confessions

The confessions were included in Schwarzenegger's tongue-in-cheek responses to the monthly magazine's regular "Proust Questionnaire" section.

Asked about his greatest fear, the muscled actor—who is considering running for governor of California—replied: "I am petrified of bikini waxing. I had a very bad experience in 1978." Questioned as to his greatest regret, Schwarzenegger bemoaned the roles he had turned down that won Oscars for other actors.

"Although I still say I wasn't right for Forrest Gump," he joked.

Major extravagance

The Austrian-born star of the "Terminator" movies listed being a "shoe queen" as his major extravagance and speaking "with heavy American accents" as the trait he most deplores in others.

And what does he most value in his friends?

"The same thing everyone does," he responded. "Loyalty, a sense of humor—and the ability to make campaign contributions!" *AFP*

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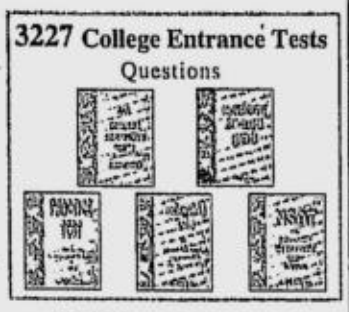

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Getting to know Eric Villarama, Donita Rose's fiancé

ERIC AND DONITA. She brings out the best in him.

By Jocelyn Valle

DONITA Rose's wedding announcement proved to be a shocker to some people. Yes, she's already 28, but on MTV, she seems to be enjoying her youth too much to think about marital commitments. She shows great passion for her work as a VJ, actress and product endorser, so her fans can't picture her as a housewife.

Marriage vows

But Donita is really, truly set to exchange marriage vows on June 9 at the Bacarra Resort in Santa Barbara, California, USA with Eric Villarama. His name may not ring a bell, but he's the man who makes her heart sing.

Eric was born on Sept. 3, 1976 (he's two years younger than Donita) at the Yokota Air Force Base in Japan to Efren and Gloria Villarama, who now work for the County of Fresno in California.

He has an older sister (Karen, 27) and three younger brothers (Gareth, 23, Kevin, 14, and Kyle, 9).

Graphic design

He studied graphic design in college and has worked as club DJ, Internet help technician and web designer. He's now senior art director at Formul8 in Singapore, where the couple plans to settle down after the wedding.

This is how the romantic duo crossed paths: Eric had an old friend named Alvin, who grew up in Spain with him. In 1987, Alvin's family moved to the Philippines (in Subic Bay) and became friends with Donita's younger brother, Paul Cavett. The Villaramas followed suit the next year, and the three boys started hanging out together.

"When we'd go to Paul's house (at Clark Air Base), I'd always notice Donita," Eric recounts. "She was so beautiful, so I asked Paul, 'Who's that?' He said, 'She's my sister. She's a witch, leave her alone.' They didn't have a strong relationship when they were younger."

"And I had a puppy-love crush on her ever since," he adds, smiling. Unfortunately, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991, Eric and his family had to move back to Japan.

Eric and Paul only met again in 2000 in the States. Since then, Eric would always ask Paul about Donita. "Everytime I'd hear her name, I'd get excited," he grins. "If you like somebody that long, the feeling never really dies."

Ups and downs

Later that year, Eric saw Donita again, and they rediscovered each other. "She's definitely changed," he remarks. "I wasn't around for 10 years so I didn't see the ups and downs she went through. But from what I've heard from close friends, she's become a better person.

"She's amazing. She's truly a great role model now. She's good to people. Have you ever seen a star stop and sign all those autographs?"

Eric has seen for himself how huge a star Donita is, so how is he adjusting to his wife-to-be's celebrity? "It's not as hard as I thought it would be," he replies. "At first it was a bit strange, but she gave me one of the best tips ever—have fun. How many people are there who can be celebrities?"

What does he like most about Donita? "Two things," Eric points out. "First, she makes me laugh and she knows how to bring out the best in me.

"Number two: I love how she loves the Lord, and that's very important to me. We're not strong enough to do the right thing sometimes. She always reminds me: Through His strength, through His will. It makes me happy, knowing that we can overcome anything."

Lucky guy!

I remember Lino Brocka, way back when

By Behn Cervantes

(Continuation)

LINO quit the UP Dramatic Club production of the Wilder play because during our first rehearsal, he screamed a line that got the whole cast and crew in stitches. He yelled, "Awe Mudder, Mudder luk ut dat gel weering a batting chute!" (Translated in properly pronounced English that would be: Oh Mother, Mother, look at that girl wearing a bathing suit.)

Humiliated

I didn't know till much later that he was terribly humiliated by our spontaneous and mindless laughter. He opted to quit the play and kept away from our (to his mind) snobbish company.

Instead, he worked backstage. He swept the stage, cleaned the dressing room area and threw away our pee collected in small bottles backstage after the performances. He also drew and dropped the curtain, and prompted the cast when needed.

Sometime later, he confided to me that his family name was originally Von Brocka but they dropped the royal indicator out of embarrassment.

Instead, Catalino erstwhile Von Brocka became Lino to the UP Dramatic Club members. Only Adul insisted on calling him Catalino.

At some point, Joonee and I "adopted" Lino as our friend and protégé. We helped him with his English pronunciation and, when he wasn't getting cast in UP productions, we transferred to the Arena Theater at Philippine Normal College under Dr. Severino Montano on Taft ave.

Arena actors

Joonee and his brother Arthur were already Arena actors and Montano protégés. We appeared in Montano and Tony Bayot plays. Naty Crame Rogers was another PNC stalwart.

In 1957, I resigned from the UP Dramatic Club in protest over its constant use of alumni, while resident UP Dramatic Club members like Lino were not given the chance to act. He was finally cast in "Second Shepherd's Play," a medieval morality play with the gorgeous Dee Marquez portraying Mary.

She became the first musical star of Philippine television, hosting "The Pacosta Hour" that was later renamed "The Dee Marquez Show." For years, Lino would describe a woman of great beauty, femininity and grace as '*ala*-Dee Marquez.'

When there was no money for tuition, Lino would drop out of school. Adul, who had dropped out earlier, helped him land jobs. The first was as a jockey for Muzak, then run by psychiatrist Dr. Paul Hodel.

Day shift

Adul had the day shift while Lino took care of the graveyard hours. They played soothing music for Manila Hotel patrons in a glass-enclosed studio located on the ground floor of the historic hotel.

BROCKA. Preferred backstage work at UP.

Often, I would keep Lino company during the lonely early-morning hours. I would arrive after the last full show at Ideal or Avenue theaters on Rizal ave. From inside the glass booth, Lino and I would gawk at Manila's 400 going to the Fiesta Pavillion for the Kahirup's grand balls, or those very elitist fashion shows of yore.

Pedigreed beauties like Deanna Jean Lopez, Dee Marquez, Cynthia Sun, Norma Serafica, Bambi Lammoglia, Baby Jereza along with society matrons Chona Kasten, Elvira Manahan, Chito Madrigal and young debutantes Conchitina Sevilla and Josie Padilla walked the ramps and executed their dramatic turns for charity. During those long, lonely hours, we talked of everything under the sun.

Hollywood productions

A few years later, Adul worked for PR Bill Kane. He represented Hollywood productions that then shot films in cheap, sun-rich and English-speaking Philippines, a country that also offered well-trained technical crews. Adul got Lino involved in those productions.

The first was "Walls of Hell" or "Intramuros" for the domestic run. It starred Jock Mahoney, a former Tarzan, and the young Fernando Poe Jr. Eddie Romero, who directed the movie, told me later that Lino worked in other co-productions.

Lino would often ask me to visit him on the set. He was busy, indeed. I failed to see how much of a turning point that would be in his life. Little did anyone on those sets realize that the 90-pound, 5'3" fellow would become a titan of Philippine cinema! *(To be concluded)*

'Huling Birhen' marks many firsts for Maui Taylor

By Edmund L. Sicam

TAYLOR. Few sexy scenes.

"I THINK it's a sin. It says in the Bible that you have to wait until you're married," declares sexy star Maui Taylor when asked about her stand on premarital sex. "My mom always told me to wait for the right time." But Maui says that it's hard to follow this rule today. "*Kung hindi mo na kaya*, just make sure to tell God how sorry you are."

Religious person

Maui reveals that she is a religious person. However, her schedule is so full that she does not even have time to hear mass. "So, *ginagawa ko na lang*, I pray in the morning and before I go to sleep, thanking Him."

One of the things that Maui is grateful for is that she was given the title role in the Joel Lamangan movie "Ang Huling Birhen sa Lupa." She plays a retarded girl who gets raped, but miraculously remains a virgin in spite of her sad experience.

This movie marks many firsts for Maui. To start with, this is the first time she plays a retardate. Maui says that *Direk* Joel told her to act the way she did when she was still a child.

Dream sequence

In this movie, Maui's character does not have any sexy scenes except for a dream sequence involving Jay Manalo (who plays the role of a priest) and herself, and the rape scene.

This is her first rape scene, and it was very difficult to do. She felt drained not only physically but also emotionally. "Feeling *ko sasabog ang dibdib ko, hihimatayin ako sa sobrang init!*" she recalls.

Intimidated

This is Maui's first project with Joel. The actress speaks fondly of her director but admits that she was initially intimidated by him.

"I told him I have a hard time crying, that's really my problem, and he told me, 'Well with me, *talagang iiyak ka!*'" But, once they started working together, Maui says she found Joel a very caring director.

And yes, Joel did get Maui to cry!

Maui's supporters are betting that her performance in this movie will merit an acting award. She is hopeful, but "I'm not expecting anything. *Mahirap na, di ba? Kung baga, kung meron, meron. Kung wala, wala. Basta alam ko*, I did my best, and I'm proud of our movie. That's good enough for me."

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 7 TO JUNE 13

CH	7	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	33
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Buttercup 9:00 Fiflyiesta Cinema 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 PBA Games 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 14th Asian Games 2002 (Replay) 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mallil 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 NBA Finals 12:00 Ugnayang Pambansa	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 10:00 Standing Room Only	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Singmaks 10:30 Gawad Kalinga 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital Idol 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 El Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Daratng Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Da Boy and Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Just for Laughs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:30 NBA Jam 7:00 NBA 2000 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Daratng Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Brain Freeze 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Ur Service (GSIS)	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 9-Ball Billiard 8:00 Global Family Series 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal 11:30 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Daratng Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Whatlaman 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Nuts Entertainment 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Malcolm in the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 El Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Daratng Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shufato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Magpakailanman 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 NBA 2000 9:30 CelebrityDotCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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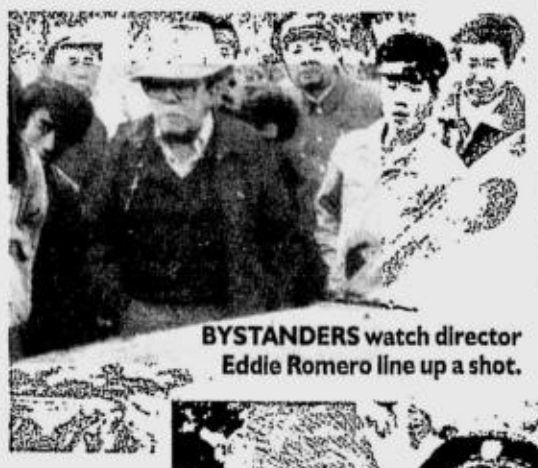
Special screening of Romero's 'Hari sa Hari' at CCP

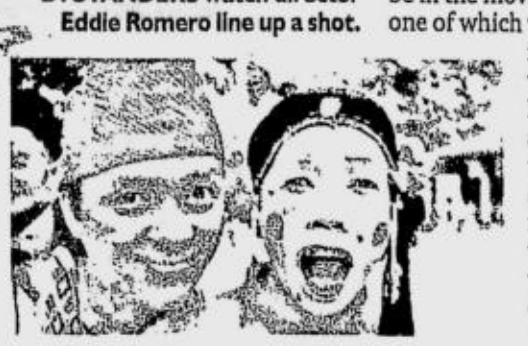
By Nestor U. Torre

IN 1986, the Philippines through the CCP embarked on its biggest official co-production venture with the People's Republic of China: the dramatization on film of the voyage in the 14th century of the King of Sulu to visit the Emperor of China.

THOUSANDS of Chinese soldiers in period costumes get ready for a big scene showing the Sulu *datus* being feted at the emperor's suite of palaces.



BYSTANDERS watch director Eddie Romero line up a shot.



THE AUTHOR with a Chinese clown on the film's set in Xiamen, PROC.

Royal visit

The Sulu monarch was grandly feted by the Chinese emperor, and the royal visit was a success—except for the fact that the King of Sulu died while in Mongolia.

Despite this tragic denouement, the visit was deemed good film material that could strengthen the cultural bonds between the Philippines and China, so it was decided to shoot a historical film epic about it in both countries.

We were fortunate to be tapped to play one of the *datus* who accompanied the King on his historic voyage. Before we left for China, we filmed some of the movie's scenes in Batangas.

Everyone involved in the production was impressed by the fact that the co-production was deemed to be such an important official project that it had *two* sets of film personnel, from director downward, one each from China and the Philippines.

Two directors

Since everything had to be approved by both sides, the two directors discussed each shot prior to shooting. This made the production phase of the project slow and laborious, and required the Filipino contingent to shoot in China for five long months.

Some members of the cast chafed at the bit and were impatient to fly back home, but the long schedule was just right for us, because it gave us time to soak in the culture and arts of China. Thus, the shoot turned out to be the most important cultural exposure we ever had, and changed our perception and outlook in a major way after we came home.

Journey

The journey was made even more memorable by the fact that it took us across most of China, from Xiamen in the south all the way up to Mongolia. In the Beijing area alone, we spent an entire month.

After the film, "Hari sa Hari" (King and Emperor), was completed, it garnered praise in international film festivals. It also became famous because it was one of a very few films that were allowed to shoot in the Chinese emperors' so-called Forbidden City, a sprawling and incredibly beautiful suite of palaces.

On June 8, "Hari sa Hari will have a special evening screening at the CCP as part of the celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. This screening some 17 years after the film epic was made will give young Filipino film buffs a chance to view for themselves the Philippines' most significant co-production venture with another Asian country.

Flotilla

They will be regaled by truly panoramic scenes, like the sequence in which the Filipinos' flotilla of ships docked at its first Chinese port, where it was royally welcomed, and the huge scenes shot in the Forbidden City, with a cast of thousands of Chinese soldiers in period costumes.

For our part, we were happy to be in the movie for many reasons, one of which was the opportunity it gave us to work with the late Ruben Rustia, who played a senior Sulu *datu* in the production. Since we shared a number of scenes with Ruben, we were able to see at close range what a great actor he was.

During his career, Ruben was unfairly overlooked and underestimated, but we were fortunate to be able to appreciate his brilliance in "Hari sa Hari." We held him in very high regard after that, despite the fact that he was generally relegated to playing minor roles in local movies.

Ralph Fiennes finds the theater a more fulfilling medium

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A this week:

From *Bonnie Garces of Sta. Ana, Manila,* "I was surprised to see a lighter Ralph Fiennes in 'Maid in Manhattan.' It's nice to see him smile for a change. Where can I write him?"

While "Maid in Manhattan" obviously demonstrated how little chemistry there was between Ralph Fiennes and Jennifer Lopez, the movie nevertheless proved that Fiennes, known for his dark, brooding characters, can fit the romantic mold as well.

Photographer

But the 40-year-old film and stage thespian, born to photographer Mark Fiennes and novelist/painter Jennifer Lash, prefers the discipline of the theater more than the grind of the movies.

He explains: "you get to the bottom of things. The theater allows you to examine and understand the motivations of your character." But don't ask Ralph to go further. He says, "I veer away from trying to understand why I act. I just know I need to do it."

As reluctant as he is to discuss his craft, he is also wary of the press, owing to the media hoopla after his four-year marriage to "E.R." actress Alex Kingston ended in divorce in 1997.

The press had a grand time snooping into Ralph's private life. After all, his marriage ended after he starred in the Broadway production of "Hamlet," playing the tortured hero opposite his current partner, Francesca Annis, 18 years his senior, playing Hamlet's mother, Gertrude.

Six siblings

Ralph is the eldest of six siblings (who include a director, a producer, a musician and another actor, "Shakespeare in Love's" Joseph Fiennes—who by the way has a twin named Jacob, a gamekeeper). No, he does not have kids.

FIENNES. Known for his dark, brooding characters.

In March 2001, he received the William Shakespeare Award from the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, DC. Past recipients include Mel Gibson, Kenneth Branagh, Lynn Redgrave, Patrick Stewart and Kevin Kline.

Of the roughly one dozen actors to play Hamlet on Broadway, the 5'11" Fiennes was the first to win a Tony Award for doing so.

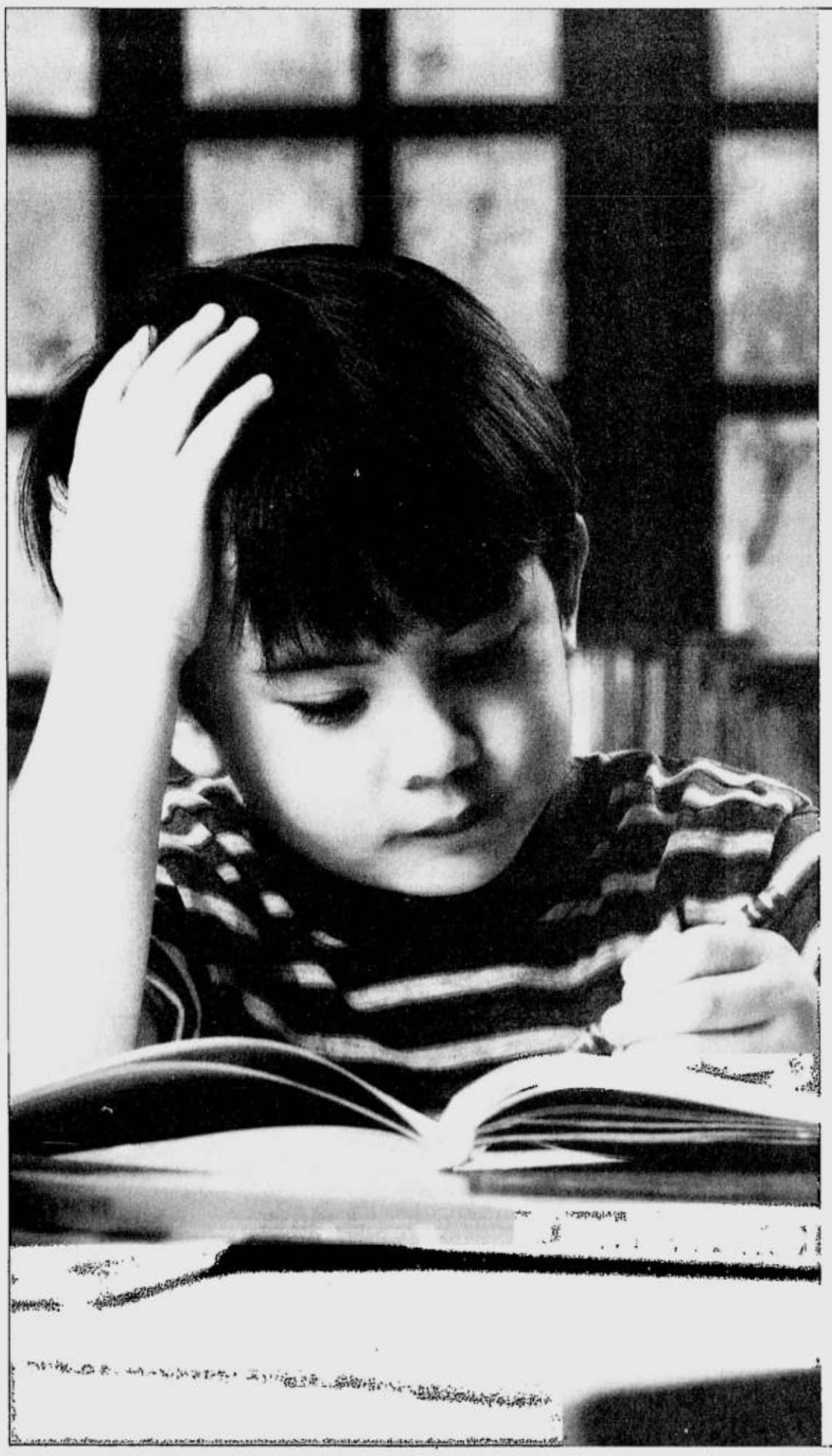
As a film actor, he won two Oscar nominations (for "Schindler's List" and "The English Patient").

However, he's also had his share of flops, namely the sci-fi debacle, "The End of Days" and the terrible big-screen adaptation of "The Avengers."

His next two films encompass both ends of the artistic spectrum: He is slated to do rejoin David Cronenberg in another dark film, titled "Painkillers."

And for lovers of romantic comedies, there's something to rejoice about because Fiennes will star with Sandra Bullock in Neil LaBute's "Vapor," about a down-on-her-luck, struggling actress who saves the life of an eccentric but good-looking scientist who helps her find fame. And, as Hollywood scriptmeisters would have it, she starts falling in love with him.

If you wish to write Ralph Fiennes, try this address: c/o Simon Beresford Dalzell and Beresford Ltd., 26 Astwood Mews, London SW7 4DE, United Kingdom.



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Nokia 7210 (w/ camera & headset)	20,400	18,300	17,000	11,800	6,000	FREE	FREE
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY *Special*

Wynton Marsalis and family bring New Orleans music to the world

NEW YORK—Few musical families have been in the spotlight as often as the one headed by Ellis Marsalis Jr.

Patriarch

The patriarch and his four jazz musician sons—trumpeter Wynton, saxophonist Branford, trombonist Delfeayo and drummer Jason—just finished a tour of sold-out concerts this spring.

Now, Ellis and Wynton, America's most prominent jazz spokesman, will perform together again in a concert billed as "Marsalis at the Penthouse." It airs Thursday as part of the PBS "Live at Lincoln Center" series.

The performance celebrates the music of the late New Orleans drummer James Black (1940-1988).

Unique

"Black's music was unique in its meter and time signature," Ellis said, "and his melodies complement the meter he writes in."

The elder Marsalis played in New Orleans bands with Black spo- radically from about 1962 and recorded four of Black's tunes on a 1963 album called "Monkey Puzzle."

Wynton came to New York at 17, and studied classical trumpet at Julliard for about a year and a half before drummer Art Blakey asked him to join his Jazz Messengers. He gave up his studies for a professional career that has seldom slowed. By the mid-1980s Columbia Records had signed him up to make both classical and jazz recordings, which produced Grammys in both categories.

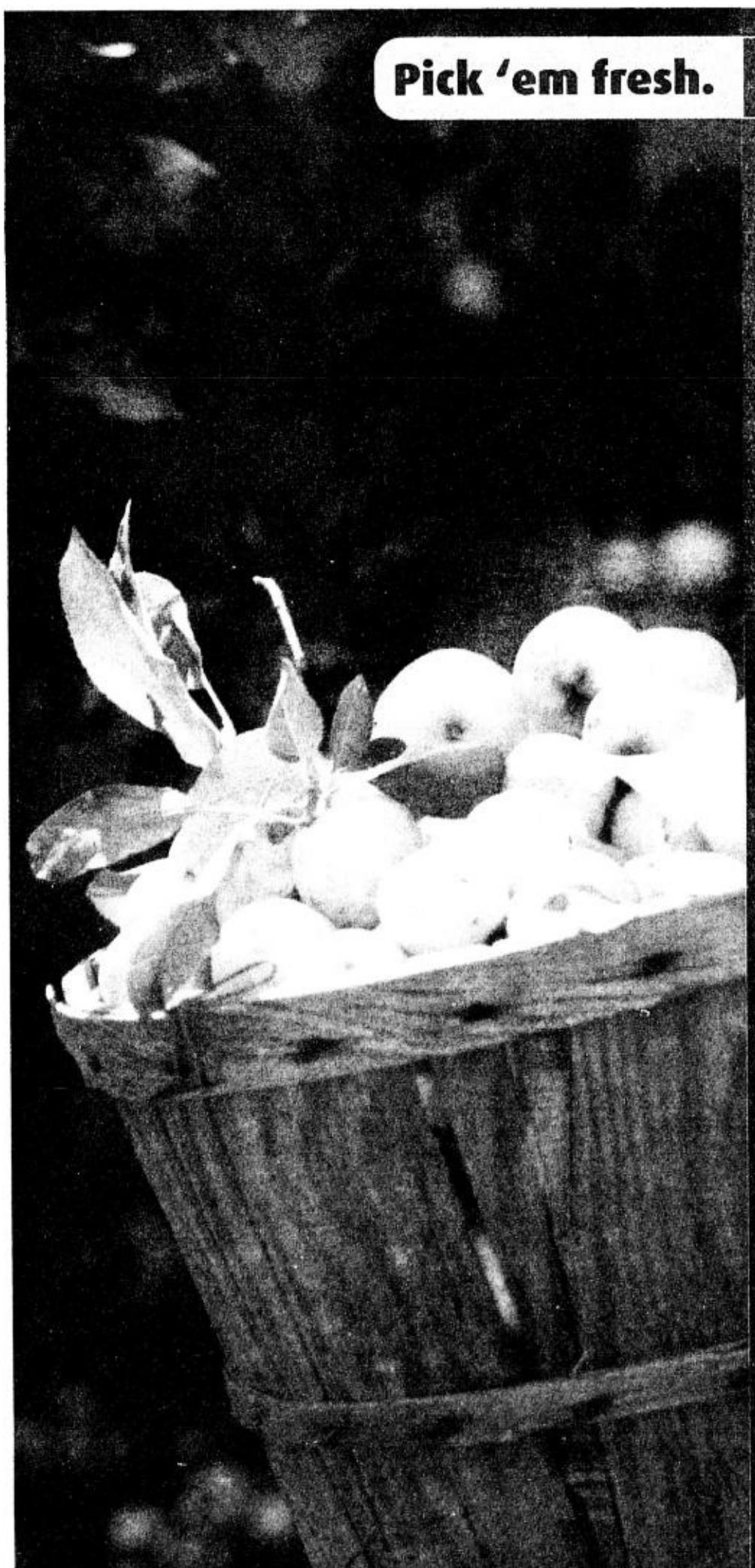
In 1997, he became the first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer prize, and was named artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

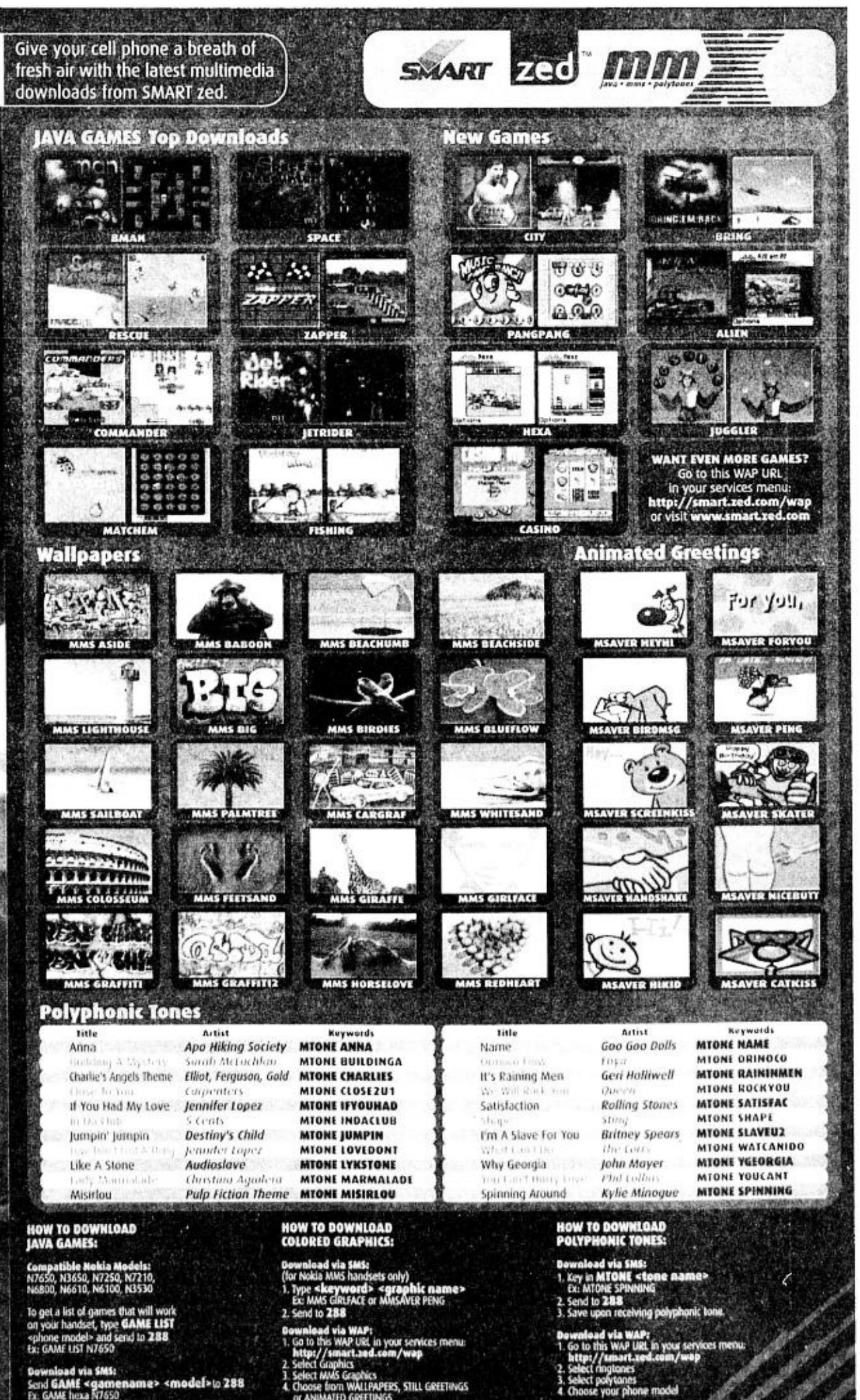
The organization does a lot to promote jazz. So far in 2003, it has produced over 30 concerts in the New York area, and its Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra toured over 15 cities in seven countries. Marsalis is also musical director of the orchestra, which has premiered six original commissions this year.

Under construction

Marsalis is especially excited about the new Rose Hall in the AOL Time Warner building under construction at Columbus Circle, just five blocks downtown from from Lincoln Center. "It will be the first ever concert space designed for the sound and feeling of jazz," he said. It opens in the fall of 2004. *AP*

ELLIS Marsalis at the piano, while his son, Wynton, plays the trumpet. AP





FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you are witty and charming, you can be enormously entertaining. But your gift of communication is also due to your ability to keep your finger on the pulse of the public. It's important to wrap up major cycles in your life this year to create room for new ones to begin.
Birthdate of: Paul Gauguin, artist; Liam Neeson, actor; Jessica Tandy, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong desire to communicate to others now, especially siblings and relatives. Make sure you arrange opportunities for these discussions, because you want them to take place.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Focus on earnings and your job now. (You might be spending more as well.) Think about what really matters to you so you know what to work for.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't be afraid to put yourself first now. This is the only time of year when the Sun is in your sign. It's all about you -- enjoy it!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You need more time for rest and relaxation. You also need more privacy and peace and quiet. Respect your needs, and try to steal some time just for yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your dance card is full! Friends, groups, clubs and organizations make demands on your time now. Make an effort to share time with others, because that's what's happening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't be afraid to accept increased responsibilities right now. You don't have to be a superhero to succeed. Just trust yourself and hope for the best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Take a short trip if you can, because you need a change of scenery. You want to expand your experience of the world through film, travel, books and talking to people from other lands.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Sort out problems and red-tape details related to shared property, debt, taxes and joint resources. Deal with wills, estates, inheritances and financial dealings you share with others.

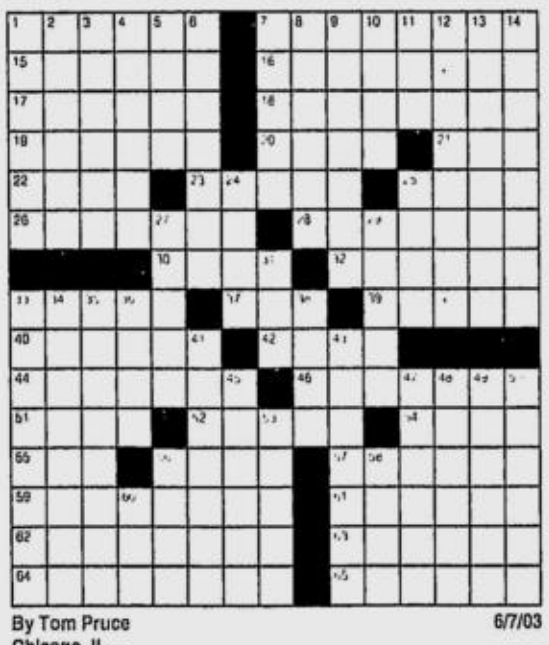
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can learn a lot about yourself from your closest relationships now. Look at how others respond to you. (This is a tip to your personal style of communicating.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Give yourself the best tools to get organized at this time. Don't just go halfway. Capitalize on the urge you have now to clean up your act. (You'll love yourself for this later.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Romance, love affairs, the arts and playful activities with children please you now. Look for opportunities to express your own creativity. It's the process that counts, not the result.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Focus on home and family matters today. Your domestic world needs your attention now. Discussions with parents are particularly important.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

6/7/03

ACROSS
1 Place the blame
7 Divide into parts
15 "Harry and Tonto" Oscar winner
16 Completely
17 Wistful
18 Powers of "Hart to Hart"
19 Preoccupy
20 Weill or Vonnegut
21 Easter item
22 Curt negative
23 Davis of "Do the Right Thing"
25 Mix
26 Tangle up
28 Big name in electronics
30 Table extension
32 Fish schools
33 Apply elbow grease
37 Angler's float
39 Lacoste and Coty
40 Eyed lewdly
42 Strong cord
44 Boyer classic film
46 Diminishes
51 Added benefit
52 Confused
54 "Peter Pan" dog
55 Friend
56 Hautboy
57 Illegal activities
59 Like pencil marks
61 Bigots
62 Changed names
63 Materialize
64 Hawking and King
65 Atomizers

DOWN
1 Moss Hart's autobiography
2 Old copy
3 Donald and Quentin
4 Overlooked
5 Tennis match units
6 Blight on the landscape
7 Office furniture
8 Sense
9 Sound systems
10 Process flour
11 Period
12 Las Vegas hotel with gondolas
13 Entitled to be chosen
14 Darnel
24 Quantity of bacon
25 Loafer or slipper
27 "The Zoo Story" dramatist
29 Faint trace
31 _ crying out loud!
33 Smackers
34 Wine cabinet
35 Adjust to specifications
36 "Topaz" author
38 Use a drill
41 Novelist Margaret
43 Soft, juicy fruits
45 Lifted by light fingers
47 Go-between
48 Minolta or Nikon
49 Vitality
50 Talks impudently to
53 Planted items
56 Solemn promise
58 Part of a cloverleaf
60 Liquid taste

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	O	M	■	M	A	U	R	A	■	G	E	E	D
D	A	D	A	■	A	C	R	E	S	■	R	S	T	U
E	C	O	N	A	R	T	I	S	T	■	I	C	A	L
N	O	R	D	I	C	■	■	T	E	L	L	A	L	L
■	■	■	A	D	O	R	E	■	R	A	S	P	■	■
C	R	E	T	F	■	E	M	U	■	T	F	E	M	S
R	O	D	E	■	C	L	E	N	C	H	■	G	E	T
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6/7/03

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Love and Regine Velasquez

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT'S always a delight to interview Regine Velasquez. She doesn't run out of things to say and her spontaneity adds spice to her comments. Talking to her recently about her latest movie, "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka," we focused on her views on love:

Written in the stars

Do you believe that, when you were born, it was already written in the stars that a particular man would sweep you off your feet?

I'd like to believe that. But things happen (laughs). You know, you wake up one day and you realize that your husband is fooling around!

***Akala ko* romantic *ka*.**

I am! I'm very romantic, but there's also a part of me that's very practical.

Di ba in the movies, there's love at first sight?

It doesn't happen in real life! It never happened to me. I don't believe in love at first sight. I don't get attracted to looks. I think it's so shallow.

But can't you tell a man's character just by looking?

There are people who are like that, *pero hindi ako naniniwala sa mga* first impression-first impression. *Mas yadong* judgmental, *ayoko ng ganoon.*

Illogical

***Pero di ba ganoon ang* love? It's supposed to be illogical.**

Yeah, but I never do that. *Kailangan ko muna makilala.* And I use my head!

I think you use your head more than your heart, that's why you haven't found the right person.

Hindi naman. Mapili lang ako. It's very important for me to be comfortable with the person I'm going to be with. It's not very easy for me to trust. But I do have a strong instinct about people. I can usually tell by the second or third meeting *kung magkiclick ako sa taong ito, kung puwede kaming maging kaibigan,* or more than that.

VELASQUEZ. Doesn't find it easy to trust people.

Character is very important for me, plus integrity, intelligence and a sense of humor. It would be really great too if he were goodlooking, why not? I'll be looking at him for the rest of my life, why wouldn't I want him to be goodlooking, right?

Can you find all those qualities in one person?

Of course!

Masyadong namang* perfect *ang taong yan.

Hindi naman!

***Di ba* everyone has faults?**

That's where love comes in. *Pag mahal mo na yung tao, kung ano yung kulang,* it really doesn't matter.

Importante ang* sense of humor *sa iyo. So kung* square *yung tao, ayaw mo siya?

Kung square *siya,* I don't think I'd even be friends with him!

First impressions

Some relationships start out *na* you hate each other, and then something happens....

Oo, nangyari na rin iyon sa akin. I was like that with Ariel before, I didn't like him at all! But when I got to know him, he was such a nice person!

Suppose you meet a guy who has all those qualities that you're looking for, *kaya lang wala siyang pera.*

I have money.

Ikaw ang susuporta?

Well, it can't be *na aasa siya sa akin.*

Suppose the guy is earning less than you?

That's fine. As long as he has dreams and works hard.

Working class

***Nagtatrabaho siya pero ang trabaho niya,* working class— waiter *o* security guard.**

I don't mind, as long as he works hard *at may* dreams *siya*. If you keep working hard, you can achieve something.

With your status now, when somebody who's not well-off courts you, *di ba* at the back of your mind, *iniisip mo*, he only loves me for my money?

That's why I need to know him first. I'd be able to tell if I was just being used!

Oh, Danny Boy!

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

For several days, I've been mourning the passing of a very generous friend, an icon of decency in the show biz world, where decency seems to have gone out of fashion.

Musical director

I'm talking about musical director, composer, TV and film director Danny Holmsen. Last week, at 72, he died a violent death. Why a man who found peace in life should not find it in death is beyond me.

When I went to his wake early Wednesday evening, I chose not to view Danny's remains. The image of him that I want forever frozen in my mind is of him smiling, like life was a little joke that everybody was taking seriously except him.

Mr. Nice Guy

Danny was Mr. Nice Guy, he didn't have a mean bone in his body. He had only good things to say about people. He didn't have any enemies—he had many friends, and I consider it a great honor to be one of them.

Danny was the director of the only full-length movie I've ever done in my entire life—"Blue Hawaii" starring Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III, which we shot in Honolulu, LA and Las Vegas.

That was when I proved for myself that Danny was Mr. Cool—because he was the only one who was able to keep his cool all throughout the time that we were together, when everybody else was getting on everybody's nerves.

I know of directors who curse like four-letter words were punctuation marks they need for every sentence that comes out of their lips. There are directors who assert their authority by throwing things everytime something goes wrong on the set. And there are also those who put on a dour, morose face—perhaps to hide the fact that they don't know what they're supposed to do.

None of the above

Danny was none of the above. He was sunshine that shone even on rainy days. He always went out of his way to make things bright and fun for everyone on his set.

I remember, Guy was quarreling with Pip, Germs (German Moreno) was having a tiff with Daddy Groovy (Pip's dad), Luis Gonzales had just about had enough of everybody else—but Danny was a friend to all.

One time, I staged a walkout because I was mad at Pip. He accused me of spreading the gossip in Manila that Guy wore a two-piece bikini on the beach in Hawaii—which was big headline news back home. I did no such thing, but I was helpless against both the gossip in Manila and the accusations in Hawaii!

That night, Danny sought me out. I thought he was going to scold me. Instead, he just said, "You lost your cool out there. You should never allow anyone make you lose it. When you lose your cool, you lose, period."

Warring parties

And Danny always found a way to appease warring parties. One time, Doc Perez asked me to tell Pip that something should be done about his hair because it was covering his eyes and almost half his face each time it was windy. I told Pip about it but he said Daddy Groovy wanted his hair exactly the way it was because it was the "in" thing in Hollywood.

I couldn't go back to Doc Perez with that, so I went to Danny. He told me not to worry about it. Now you know why for half of the movie, Pip's hair covered his face, and in the other half, his hair was properly groomed.

One morning, I learned that "Hawaii Five-O" was taping right where we were filming. I put on my make-up and my most fetching outfit and went to the set—not of "Blue Hawaii" but of the popular detective series. After I'd had my fill of Steve McGarrett, I wiped off my make-up and proceeded to our set.

When Danny saw me, I thought he'd dress me down for playing hooky but he only said, "You're a funny girl. You put on make-up going to the set where you just watched the actors do their thing, and you remove your make-up going to the set where you're one of the actors." I told him Steve McGarrett was a huge crush, and he laughed. *(To be concluded)*

Ogie Alcasid, VIP

"Inday, Heart to Heart" goes OA tomorrow, 10:30-11:30 a.m., GMA-7. That's because we have the inimitably multi-talented Ogie Alcasid as guest.

Sometimes, the importance of a guest in a show biz-oriented talk show can be measured by the quality of the stars who allow themselves to be interviewed as a VTR surprise gift for the guest. By this yardstick, Ogie is, indeed, a VIP—because the likes of Sharon Cuneta, Ryan Cayabyab, Richard Gomez and many others said nice things about him, both as musical artist and comedian, and also as a friend.

MILEN Sison-de Quiros (seated at center in polka dots) with Full Circle staffers.

Achievers

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LET's hear if for these achievers:

•Dr. Aida M. Salonga, chair of the Department of Neurosciences at UP-PGH, is happy to announce the opening of the Diosdado Macapagal Stroke Center on June 11. It is located at Ward 5 of PGH and offers Adult and Pediatric Neurology, Neurosurgery, Cardiology, Rehabilitation Medicine, Vascular Physiology, Thoracacocardivascular Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Psychiatry.

The Center will have a stroke clinic, stroke team, stroke unit, comprehensive diagnostic center, stroke registry or data bank, stroke research group rehabilitation center, stroke fellowship and training for nurses, paramedical personnel, caregivers, emergency room and diagnostic technicians, and community outreach and public education.

Atty. Jose Miguel T. Arroyo will be the special guest of honor. A generous grant from the Lualhati Foundation of the office of the First Gentleman made it possible to set up this comprehensive center for stroke victims.

Third anniversary

•My friend, Milen Sison-de Quiros, an accredited PR practitioner, heads Full Circle Communication, a fast-rising public relations agency. The agency just celebrated its third anniversary at its offices at the 14th floor of the Pacific Star Building in Makati ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City, last June 3.

Full Circle serves diverse clients from various industries, offering PR counseling, media relations, crisis management, editorial services, corporate communications, community relations, product promotion, branding, and events management.

'OPTV'

•For those who fancy channel surfing and *telebabad,* here is something to watch out for: On Monday, June 9, "OPTV (Overseas Pinoy Television)" will be aired on RPN 9 at 11 p.m. Also, beginning this week, ABS-CBN's international arm, The Filipino Channel, will show "OPTV" abroad.

Monday's show tells the tale of two Pinoy seamen from Aklan who worked their way through school, graduated with honors, raised their families and brought pride to their Aklanon community.

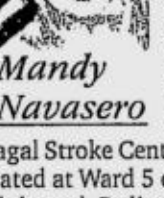
"OPTV" goes to Australia in "Pinoy Down Under"—an amusing montage of different experiences and stories.

"Illegal Recruiters" presents the "10 commandments" on how to avoid illegal recruiters. "Bisnis ni Misis" shares tips on how to set up small yet profitable businesses right in your own home.

"OPTV" is hosted by Richard Merk, Kata Inocencio, Inah Borra and Tonette Quioque.

Comfort food

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

HAVE you heard people claim their moms or *lolas* cook the best *adobo, kare-kare* or any other Pinoy dish? Or has your spouse said that your cooking is not like his mom's? If you have, these people are talking about their comfort food.

Fond memories

To me, comfort food is a dish that, when eaten, brings back fond memories of the days when all we worried about was doing our homework. This is why many places claim to offer home cooking. It brings back memories.

One day, my driver Greg and I went to meet some friends. We were going to have dinner out and couldn't decide where to take our meal. I suggested that we go back to the good, old reliables. Why not go to Aristocrat at Roxas blvd.? We were excited.

Roxas blvd.

We drove along Roxas blvd. and were amazed at how Mayor Atienza has transformed the strip. At Aristocrat, Greg ordered *palabok*, which he said was good. I had good, old chicken barbecue with java rice, *atsara* and jave sauce on the side.

My order came first. Being polite, I offered Greg a bite. He not only took a bite, he almost finished my barbecue! I had to order another one.

This has to be one of the most delicious meals I have had in years. The chicken was tender, with just the right sweetness. The java rice tasted just like it did when I was a kid. The *atsara* went perfectly with the chicken, and the Java sauce brought the dish to life.

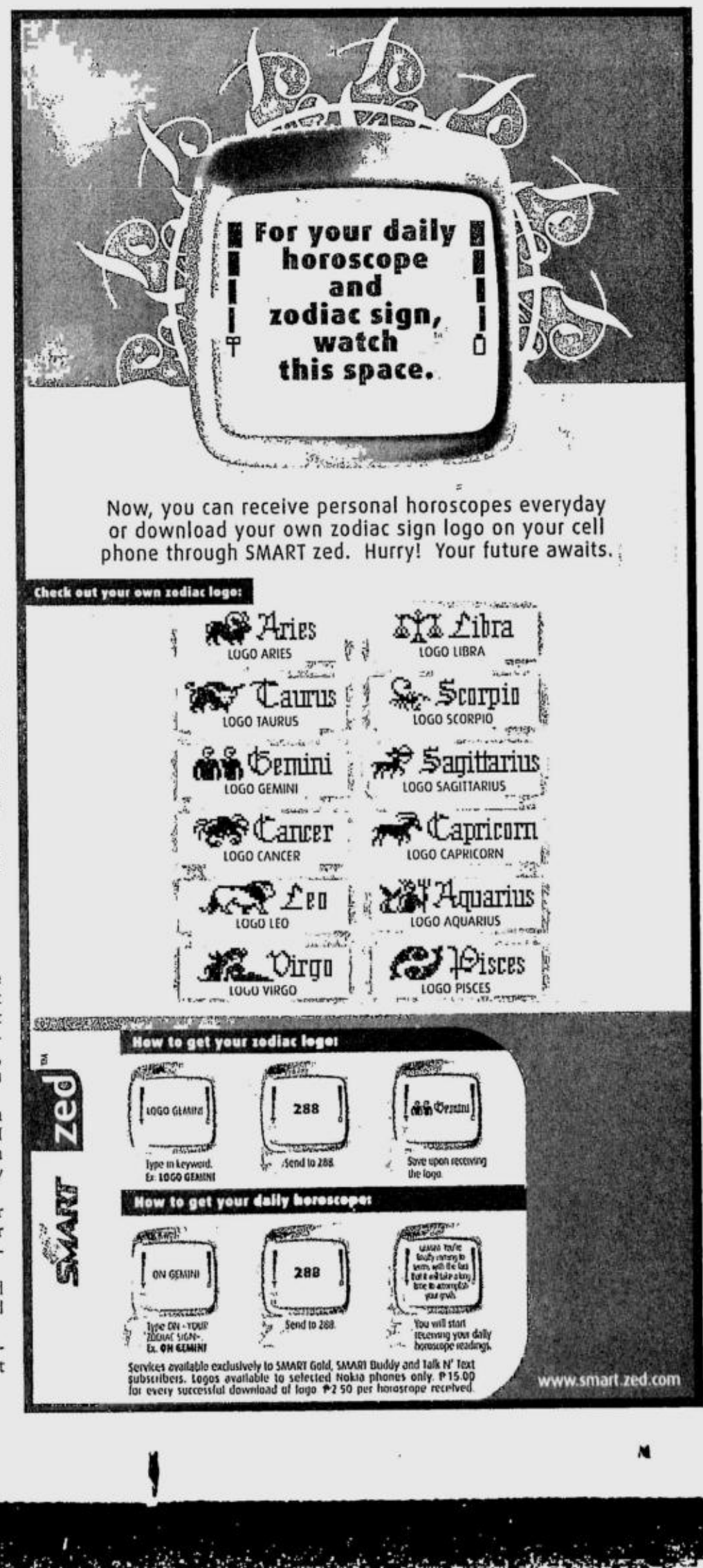
I had to text Nancy Reyes-Lumen to ask for some of that java sauce. I put it on everything. I love it with chicken, *siopao* sauce and many more.

I was eyeing the flying saucer *abobo*. Next time! This is another comfort food made perfectly by Aristocrat.

After that meal, Greg and I decided to make the rounds of other good, old restaurants, for more comfort food.

Aristocrat is along Roxas blvd., beside the old Silahis hotel. Check it out! Super!

Happy eating!



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SATURDAY Special

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Do we need another hero?

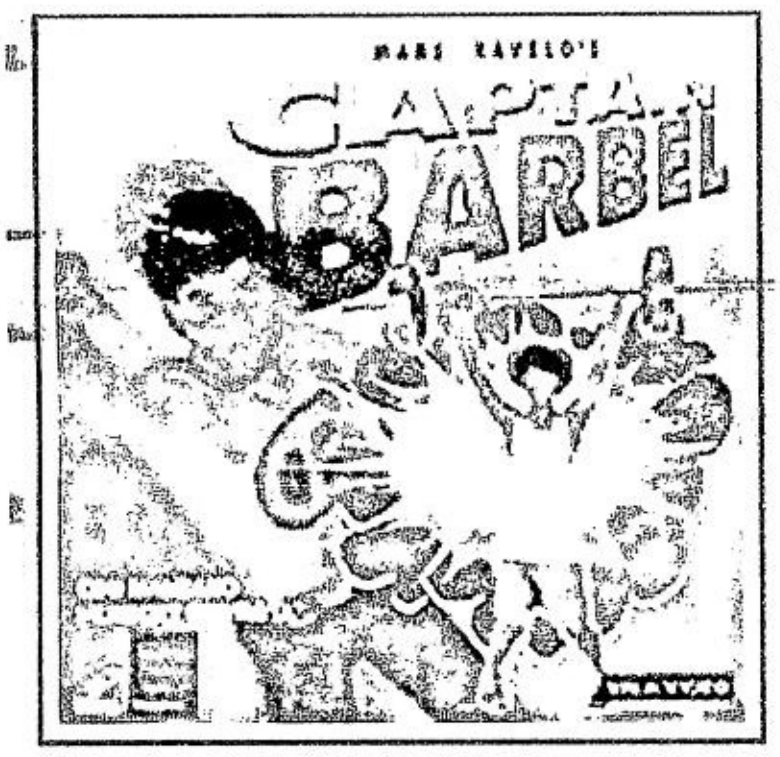
"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."

- Will Rogers

FROM Batman to the *balut* vendor, firemen to the newspaper boy, we're surrounded by heroes. One doesn't need to be a member of the Justice League to be able to make a difference in life. We've got everything from superheroes in Pinoy movies and the musical heroes of your favorite OPM artists to the super stylish Vivien Tan and the coverage of the 2003 MTV Movie Awards. So here's to the people who don't lose sight of the finish line.

Because everyone needs a hero.

this Week
SM SUPERMALLS
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
featuring
LIKHANG SINING
PERFORMING ARTS
June 7
SM SUPERCENTER
4pm
Center Atrium



Pinoy cinema's Justice League

Darna can give Wonder Woman a run for her lasso. Or can she?

"DING, ang batol" yells Narda, the adolescent country lass, to her younger brother. Ding obligingly hands over a shiny pebble which Narda swallows to turn herself into the vivacious supervixen, Darna.

Mars Ravelo's superheroine, clad in crimson bikinis and knee-high stiletto boots, may perhaps be the most famous local fantasy character given life on the silver screen. Though not actually considered a career-defining role, portraying Darna is, nonetheless, highly-coveted.

Darna has been portrayed by no less than nine actresses in 12 feature films. Rosa del Rosario first wore the scarlet two-piece in May 1951. She reprised the role after three months. Liza Moreno, Eva Montes and Gina Pareño followed her.

The inter-galactic pebble found its way to Vilma Santos' throat in 1973 via the flick "Lipad, Darna, Lipad!" Santos, now a two-term mayor of Lipa City in Batangas, is probably the most popular Darna, with a total of four movies in a span of seven years. Some of these were made

PINOY/ F3

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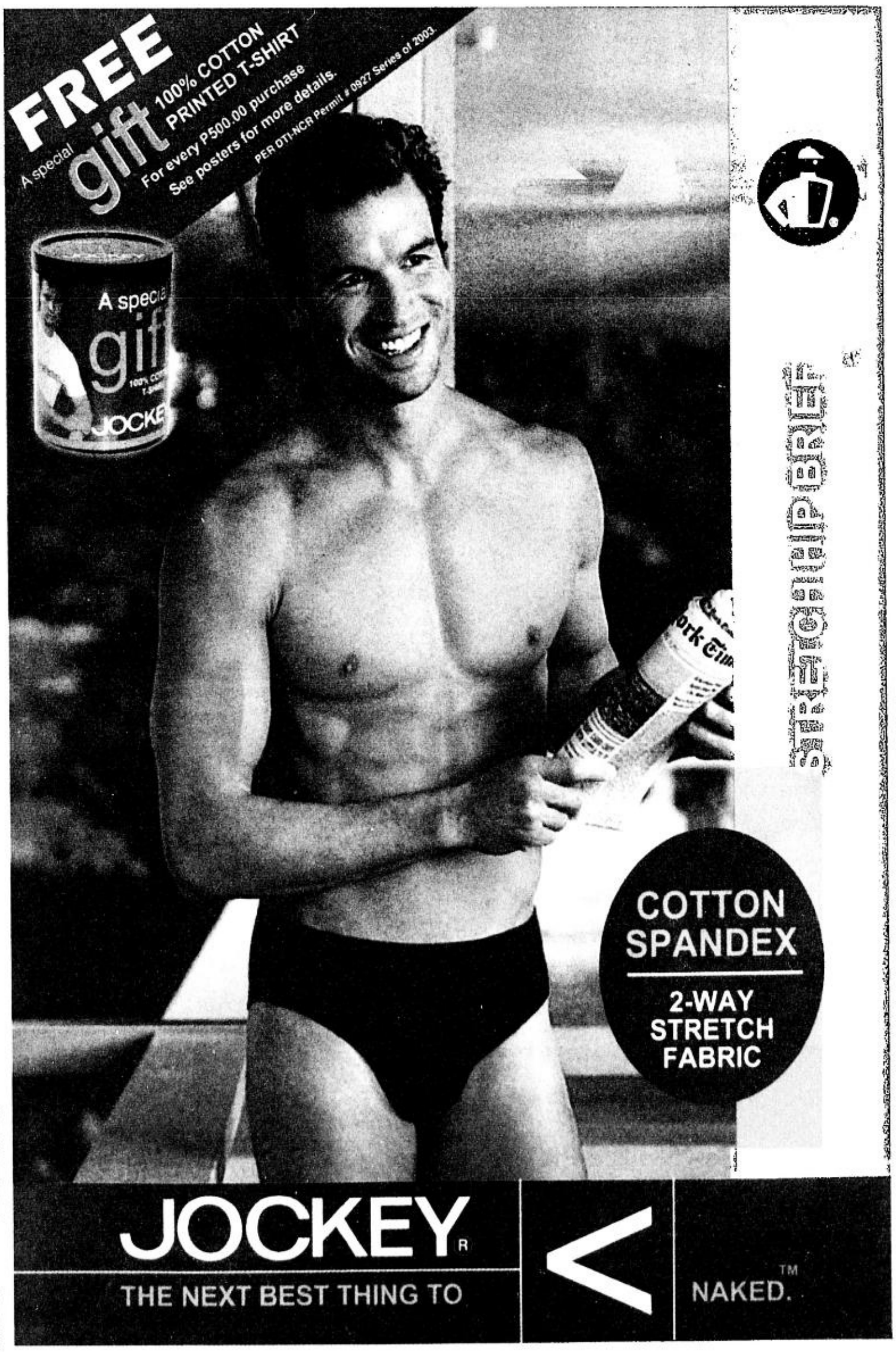
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 AFTER 8 ZEST BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JUNE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 MUSIC CIRCUIT POWER SURGE NO ENTRANCE FEE
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA ☎ (045)961.3360 LEGATTO JUNE 14- PAOLO SANTOS JUNE 20- THE DAWN JUNE 27- ANDREW E. & MAUI TAYLOR
TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735 ATMOSPHERE 3RD MOVEMENT NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429 FIRST SIGHT SOUTH EDGE NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371 1473 CITY BORN 3RD DEGREE NO ENTRANCE FEE
JUNE 07 / SATURDAY



MAKEUP guru Lala Flores waves her wand and produces magic.

VIVIEN with the whole crew.

24 hours with Vivien Tan...

Is not enough. Last month, CalCarrie's model Vivien Ilana Tan flew to Manila to shoot a print campaign for Neutrogena. Vivien is the epitome of a healthy and beautiful woman. After Vivien's grueling day in front of the camera, Super! decided to visit her in her hotel before she went back to Singapore.

BONJOUR Vivien. She calls room service and requests for a big breakfast: Danish, muffins and orange juice.

ANOTHER call comes in. Viv receives a phone call from a family friend.

VIVIEN checks her mini office. Then she realizes that she still has time to shop before her flight.

VIVIEN wants to experience shopping in a Filipino *tiangge*. So off we go to Greenhills Shopping Center.

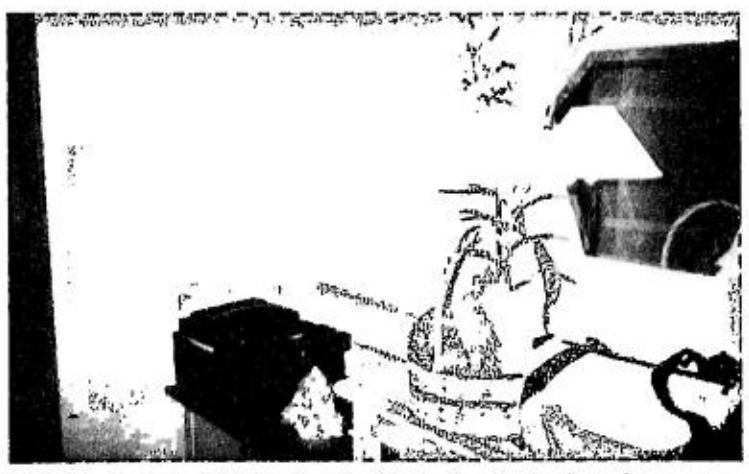
IT'S almost noon time and she sits by the garden in Greenhills, listens to blind playing classic rock.

THIS person never runs out of good friends. She receives another phone call from overseas.

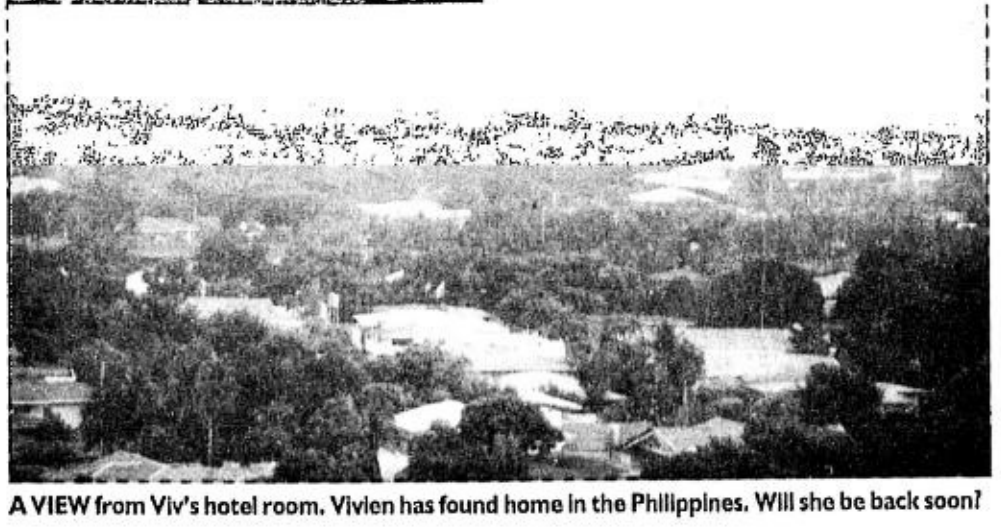
VIVIEN tends a garden in Singapore. She stops over a planter's stall and appreciates the blooming orchids.

CHECKING out. Au revoir Vivien!

BEADS as napkin holders. Thoughtful Viv looks for pretty beads to bring back to her neighbor.



BACK to the hotel. She's all packed including the basket of mangoes she received from makeup expert and friend, Lala Flores.



A VIEW from Viv's hotel room. Vivien has found home in the Philippines. Will she be back soon?

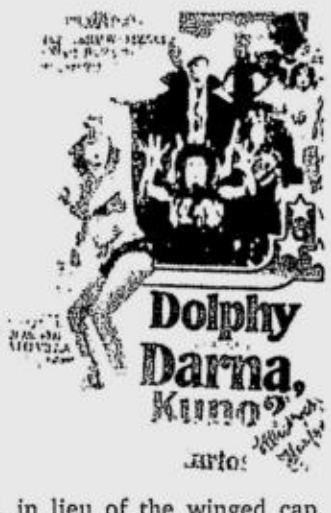
Pinoy cinema's Justice League

From page F1

known to younger generations through afternoon airings on television in the late '80s. Maybe RPN 9 should do that again so that even younger generations can marvel at Darna's greatness, albeit antiquated, in such movies as "Darna and the Giants" and "Darna vs. the Planet Women."

Rio Locsin squeezed in a portrayal in 1979 with "Bira, Darna, Bira!" But Santos made a comeback, with the legendary Niño Muhlach as Ding, in 1980's "Darna and Ding."

Megastar Sharon Cuneta appeared in a cameo role as Darna in the 1986 hit "Captain Barbel." She, however, sported a single-piece suit. A more recent edition of Darna appeared more like a spin off of the American heroine Wonder Woman. Nanette Medved portrayed the role of a cosmopolitan Narda, trekking the concrete jungle of Manila in Viva Films' 1991 Metro Filmfest Entry "Darna." Medved's Narda also did some modeling on the side and had a certain twang when screaming "Djarnuh!" Also, in lieu of the winged cap, Medved sported a tiara. Before she got embroiled in a drug scam in Guam, Anjanette Abayari played Darna, courtesy of Viva's "Darna, Ang Pagbabalik!" in 1994. The bossomy gal squeezed her wares in a more revealing suit.



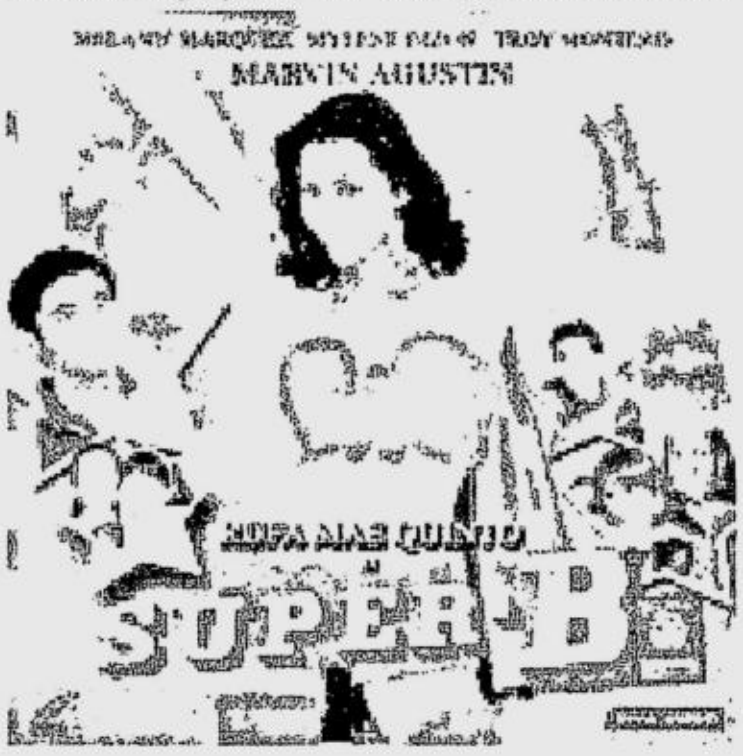
The comic-book superheroine also found its way to the small screen via Lorna Tolentino's "Darna" series in 1977. Darna also endorsed an AUV in a series of television commercials with Abayari, along with Binibining Pilipinas titlists Daisy Reyes, Maria Sovietskaya Bacud and Alma Concepcion in various versions of Darna. Liza Macuja even brought Darna to the stage in a production by Ballet Manila.

Not to be overlooked is Darna's arch-rival Valentina. Celia Rodriguez breathed new life to the term antagonist with her classy portrayal of the serpent-haired villainess. Rodriguez set a new standard by which evil women are to be judged. Meeting the requirements were Pilar Pilapil and Cherie Gil who gave equally impressive portrayals in the '90s editions of the film.

A lot of you may know that comedy king Dolphy played Darna. But it was ace comedian Chiquito, who must be credited for being the first male Darna in "Terebol Dobol."

Filipino comic book icon Ravelo also gave us "Captain Barbel." Instead of a pebble, Tengteng uses a barbell to gain superpowers as, you guessed, Captain Barbel. The gym equipment was given to Tengteng for his kindness and generosity. 1986 saw Herbert Bautista as the cart-pushing Tengteng, with Edu Manzano as the hero himself. No less than the Tony Award-winning Lea Salonga played Bautista's lady-love in the film.

Rivaling Darna's prominence in Philippine fiction is Flavio, the protagonist in the series of "Panday" movies. Flavio, a blacksmith from the countryside, finds a meteorite and makes a dagger out of its fragments. The dagger emits a tantric hum to forewarn of an impending danger. When in action, the dagger turns into a saber. Action King Fernando Poe Jr. appeared as Flavio in four "Ang Panday" movies. Perennial bad guy Max Alvarado was Liazardo, Flavio's arch-enemy. These films were also monumental for showing how a single sword-wielding guy can beat gazillions of robe-clad opponents emerging from you-don't-know-where-but-somewhere-under-the-ground.



With "Ang Panday," no number of enemies is too big when you have a tuning fork the size of a sword.

Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. starred in the fifth movie, "Dugo ng Panday." Though a certified hit, it was not as successful as the four previous editions. Suffering more sorrowful box-office returns was "Hiwaga ng Panday." The film featured Jinggoy Estrada, a gunsmith for a change, opposite Kris Aquino, enough said.

Another of Ravelo's masterpieces is "Lastikman." Much like the Western Plastic Man, Lastikman can stretch himself to different shapes, lengths and sizes. Lastikman got this incredible ability by being exposed to a rubber tree hit by (again) a meteorite. Von Serna, father of actress Snooky Serna, played the original Lastikman in 1958. The character was brought back to life last year with Vic Sotto doing the lead role. The special effects spectacle was a certified box office hit.

But this is not the first time that Sotto played a superhero. His triumvirate with Tito Sotto and Joey de Leon were "Super Wan-Tu-Tri" in the '80s and "Kabayo Kids" in the '90s. De Leon also played superhero in a film of his own, as "She-Man," a spin off of Poe's "Panday," and the animated series "He-Man" and "She-Ra." Here, De Leon is Pando, a blacksmith like Flavio, who wants to become a superhero. His dream was somehow granted by Gayskull, a, um, gay hermit. Pando turned into a superhero, right, but a gay one at that. This, however, did not stop him from rescuing barrio kids kidnapped by the wicked Skeleton.

Other superhero flicks were also shown in the '80s. Richard Gomez was "Super Islaw" in his own take of a superhero. It was much like the Ravelo classics. A young crippled lad from the barrios was granted mystical powers for his benevolence. He then uses these powers to protect the innocent in his town. Perhaps in the same league as Islaw is Super Inday. Maricel Soriano played the lead in the movie with the title "Super Inday and the Golden Bibe." Think of it as Darna with a cape, and a sense of humor.

Janno Gibbs starred in "Pedro Penduko: The Return of the Comeback" in 2000, a box office success. The character came from old mythical prose. Though not as "gifted" as the other heroes, Pedro Penduko was still able to fend off his opponents with his innate abilities and skills. The light yet colorful flick was a celebration of how rich Philippine folkloric fiction is. The original Pedro Penduko, Ramon Zamora, played a very important character in the remake. He was Maguayan, a war leader who convinces Pedro to heed the call of the people who are in need of a hero.

The latest local superhero to appear in a movie is "Super B." Screen siren Rufa Mae Quinto played the title role. Like in her many other movies, she again capitalized on her all looks, no brain persona. Thus, Super B is dumb. Despite her lack of common sense, Super B efficiently saved the innocent and battled her foes, Daisy and Rose (collectively known as the Flower Pot Girls), who are out to get all the flowers of the planet so they can rule the world. In the end, Super B emerges triumphant.

Oh, and did you know that April Boy Regino played a superhero in a movie too? He was "Super Idol." Now you would not want to hear about that, would you?

Armin Adina

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Musical Heroes

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes

WE'Ll give you 10 seconds-quick, who's your musical hero? See if your answer matches up with some of today's musicians!

"Stevie Wonder. He's completely blind yet he sings like he's seen it all!"—*Mark Escueta, Rivermaya*

"It would be Kurt Cobain. He's the embodiment of the grunge movement, which for me is one of the most beautiful experiences in music history."—*Lee Nadela, Slapshock*

"Jerry Cantrell. Because he's my guitar idol since high school. Aside from being a good bandmate for the rest of the Alice in Chains boys, he comes up with awesome songs! *Parang gusto ko sabihin na lang si Vic Sotto kasi ang galing niya mag-gitara at kumanta saka ang daming chicks!*"—*Jorel Corpus, Happy Meals / Kjwan*

"Nirvana, The Beatles, Radiohead, Joey Ayala, the Eraserheads and Yano—they all revolutionized music during their respective eras and they're still doing it."—*Vin Dancel, Twisted Halo*

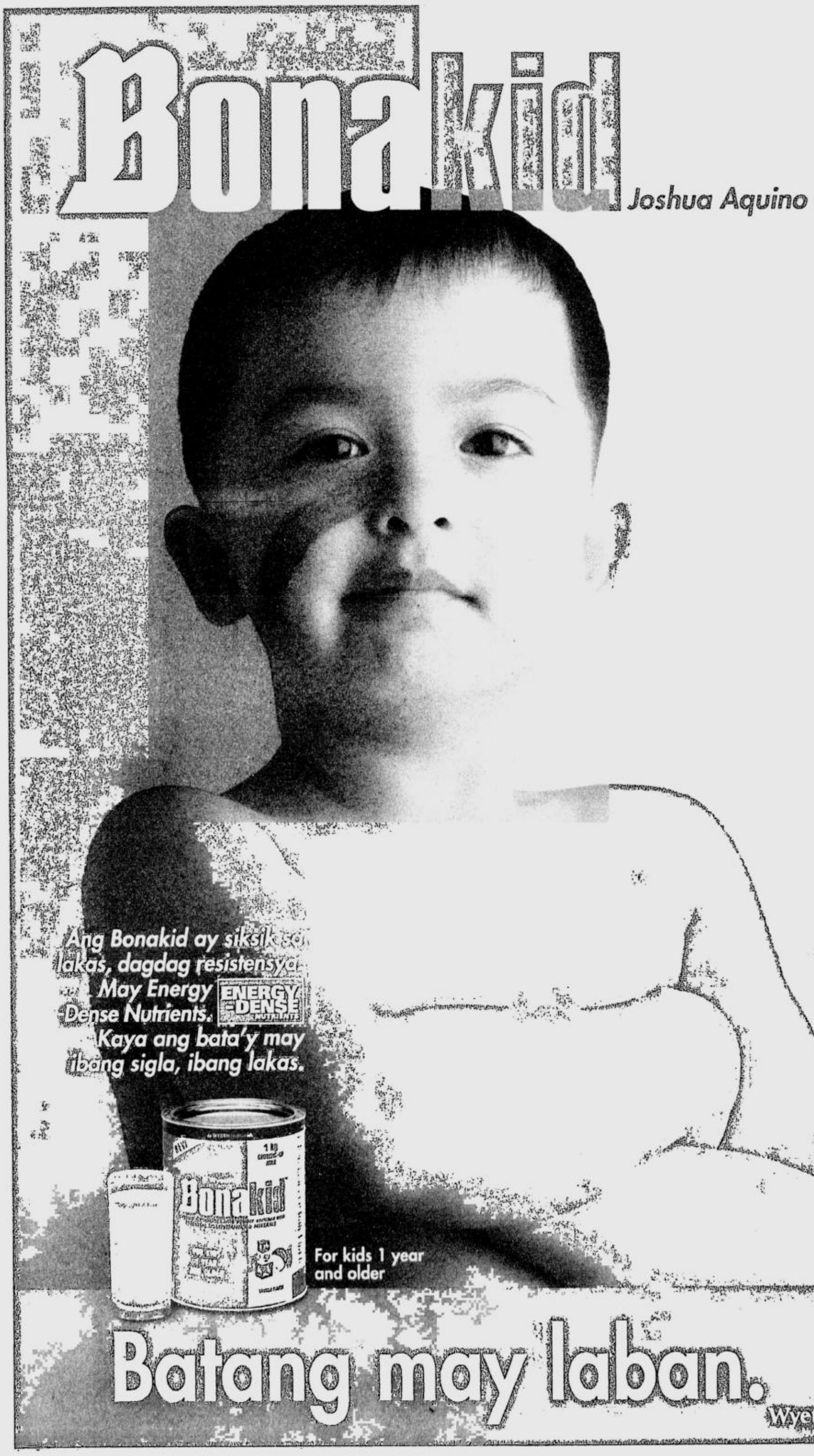
"Queen. Because my mom was always listening to them when she was pregnant with me. They haunt me every day. Freddy Mercury still lives in my subconscious."—*Kris Gorra-Dancel, Cambio*

"Pat Metheny! Listen to the tune 'Letter from Home.' His brilliance as a guitarist is absent but the emotion is both subtle and overwhelming. He's fluent in many dialects of music, but his knowledge is secondary to what the language of music is about, which is the heart of communication and which most musicians forget!"—*Francis Reyes, The Dawn*

"Miles Davis. He's a

ZACH of Imago

crazy musician! His openness to all forms and types of music in artists is remarkable. His sound is so distinct. His music is so dynamic, every album has a different mood and feel, from the pureness of heaven to the chaos of hell. 'Kind of Blue' changed my life."—*Kakoi Legaspi, Rivermaya*



ANNETTE of Fatal Posporos

"I'm sure almost everyone will say The Beatles, who are tops on my list too, but I'd go for Bob Dylan and Fugazi. Dylan, for his lyrics, which were poetic to say the least. Yet, he could be confrontational, too. Very punk. Fugazi, for virtually writing the text book on the DIY esthetic and helped influence a whole indie rock genre."—*Diego Castillo, <s>andwich*

"My musical hero is Joe Satriani because he introduced me to instrumental rock guitar. He doesn't need a vocalist because he sings with his guitar."—*Chino Singson, itchyworms!*

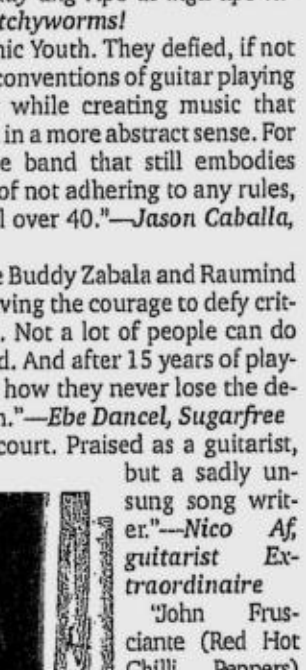
"*Marami eh* but right now I can only think of Robert Smith (of The Cure)and The Pixies!"—*Annette, Fatal Posporos*

"Louie Talan of Razorback! The way he grooves and the way he's able to make people's heads bob."—*Kelley Mangahas, Dicta License*

"Joey Ayala!"—*Zach Lucero, Imago*

"*Mahal ko si* Pepe Smith. Legendary *bangkay na buhay pa. Mahal ko ang* Juan dela Cruz."—*Odin Fernandez, The Happy Meals*

"Ludacris. Just because."—*Miguel Chavez, Chicosci*



SPONGE Cola

"Apo Hiking Society. Their music is timeless, inspired, carefree, and honest. For me, they are still the best vocal group in today's local scene. *Mabuhay ang* Apo *at mga apo nila*!—*Kelvin Yu, itchyworms!*

"Definitely Sonic Youth. They defied, if not transcended, all conventions of guitar playing and songwriting while creating music that still rocks though in a more abstract sense. For me, they are the band that still embodies punk rock ethos of not adhering to any rules, even if they're all over 40."—*Jason Caballa, Twisted Halo*

"My heroes are Buddy Zabala and Raumind Marasigan for having the courage to defy critics and move on. Not a lot of people can do what they just did. And after 15 years of playing, it's amazing how they never lose the desire to play. Amen."—*Ebe Dancel, Sugarfree*

"Nuno Bettencourt. Praised as a guitarist, but a sadly unsung song writer."—*Nico Af, guitarist Extraordinaire*

KRIS of Cambio

"John Frusciante (Red Hot Chilli Peppers) because he's the skankiest guitar player I have ever heard."—*Marc Abaya, <s>andwich/Kjwan*

"Ely Buendia. He started it all. And he wrote the songs that really mattered."—*Yael Yuzon, Sponge Cola*

"My mama and papa. Because I inherited all my musical prowess from them."—*Ricci Gurango, MOJOFLY*

"My musical hero is my lola. She used to play the piano everyday, and she also taught me how to play the guitar."—*Barbie Almalbis*

"Paul McCartney. He is one of the best song writers of all time, spanning four decades of writing great music! He can play multiple instruments,is a good businessman, and has taken care of his image. Most improtant of all, he's still allve and kicking, *plus*, he has a model wife, *literally*. Who can beat that?!"—*Jugs Jugueta, itchyworms!*

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003

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Obscenities*&$#, Expletives#@!* and Hot Lesbo Action at the MTV Movie Awards 2003

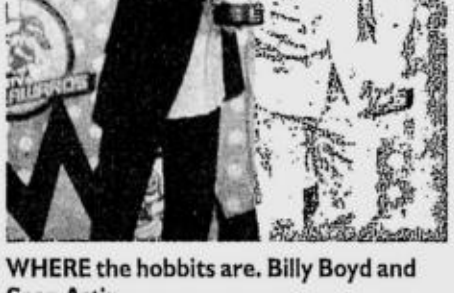
Tim Yap

LOS ANGELES, California —"Moth*r F#ck+r!" Colin Farrell, Hollywood's resident bad boy started the ball rolling with his Dubliner accent as he cussed his way through the whole night in an awards show that gave the finger to all that has happened this year in movies. With him being tinseltown's "IT" boy of the moment, it seemed so cool to be crass, so everyone had their fair share of the "F" word, with variations included.

WHERE the hobbits are. Billy Boyd and Sean Astin.

Not that the MTV Movie Awards 2003 started on a sour note. Fun permeated all throughout the awards show, with presenters and winners being at their most relaxed while taking their cue from the production staff. After all, this is MTV and the characters are supposed to be their true selves, "dirt and all," in line with the "get real" movement of the young and the not-so-young (paging Harrison Ford and his earrings).

I should have taken the cue from their opening reel of "The Matrix Relaoded" spoof. As Justin Timberlake and Seann William Scott, the night's jock-y hosts,



MIKE Lao, Yaparazzi and Charley Bautista.

enter through one of the doors, they get transported to Zion, where the sweaty rave scene takes place. Morpheus enters, and someone from the crowd appears and gives them a tip, "He's having a huge orgy in his place tonight!" Morpheus speaks, the crowd roars, and the cameo guy screams, "What can we expect from this orgy?" Morpheus answers loudly, "Machines!" And the characters look excited, and say "Oh cool, I'll bring plenty of lube!"

Justin, aside from being famous for being a former everything—former N'Sync, former recipient of oral love from

Britney, etc... has come out on his own to prove that he does have more than that—so hit me baby one more time!

Seann William Scott, on the other hand, says that "The stage is my schtick!" and he rightfully goes beyond his dumb jock-next-door character (which he plays so well) and shines as Justin's on screen hosting partner.

Maniacal Momma

Other scenes show Justin joining Keannu with the Oracle, with the Oracle requesting him to do his N'Sync moves.

Later, Timberlake and Scott re-enact the multiple cloning fight scene. "You're the guy who got peed in 'American Pie...'" as Justin sees Seann. It ends with "The Architect" scene, with Will Ferrell telling Neo (Keannu), "You are pussywhipped."

Seann later comes out onstage in a foam muscled superhero costume, only to strip it off to reveal the buffed actor in lingerie—with Timberlake's face imprinted on his chest, and get this, on his crotch. "Is that my face on your crotch?" Justin then punches in his line.

JENNIFER Garner minus Scott Foley.

Later, maniacal momma Sharon Osbourne gets to be her endearing self as she introduced 50 Cent, filled with more than 50 cents worth of f*ck^ng words, which

MIKE Myers once hosted the MTV Movie Awards.

ORIENTAL princess Bai Ling.

CALISTA Flockhart and Harrison Ford.

the crowd cheered on. If you heard your mom utter words like that, I don't think you'd be amused. Then again, we're no Kellys, so we shouldn't preach.

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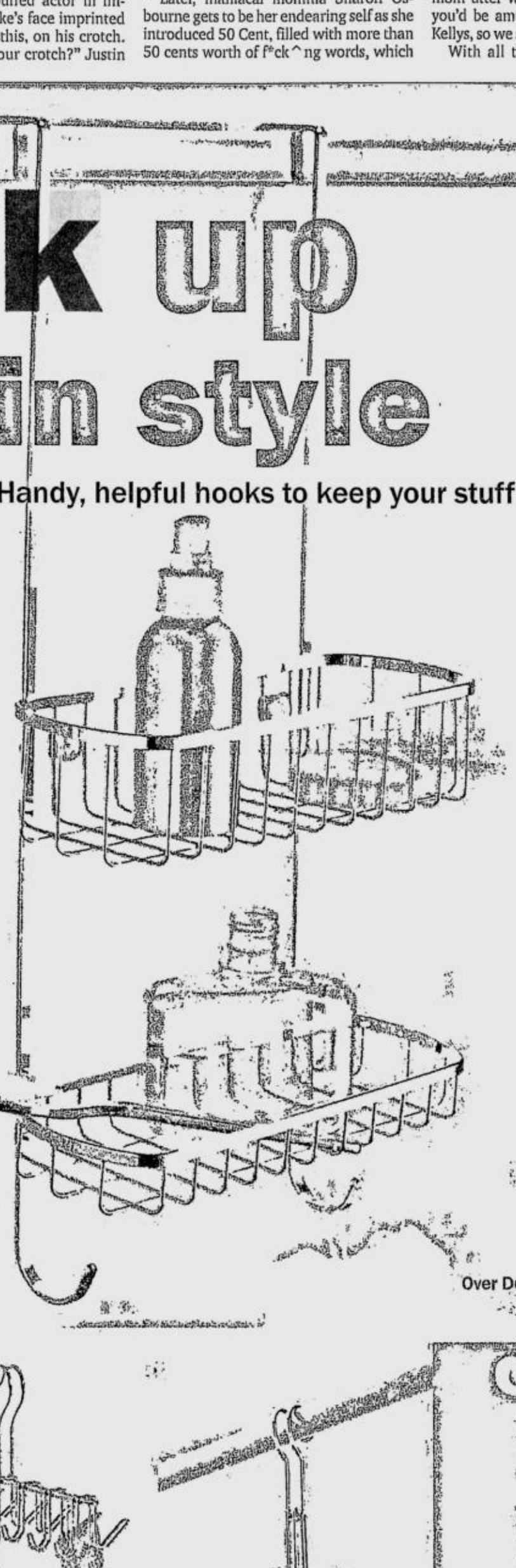
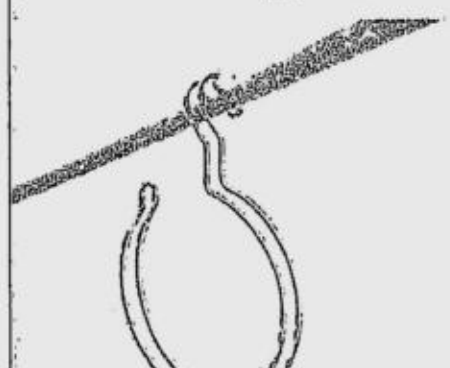
Handy, helpful hooks to keep your stuff in place.



Over Door Shower Caddy



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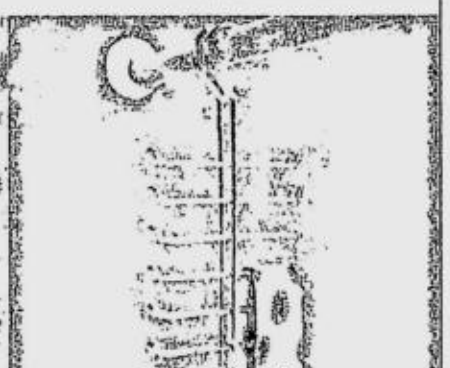
Classico Rod Hook 4



Classico Vertical Tie/Belt Rack

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STAR Wars' George Lucas.

WHOA, Mama! Queen Latifah brings down the house.

WASSUP, Ludacris?

NEWLYWEDS Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey.

STYLISH couple Victoria and David Beckham.

BOOTYLICIOUS Beyonce.

ADRIAN Brody's all puckered up.

SUPER! His shirt is really cool.

THE HILTON sisters show us some skin.

Beyonce Knowles went onstage with Jackaśs Johnny Knoxville. She asked him, "If we had a baby, how would it look like?" He uttered without blinking, "I don't care what they look like, I just care about how much fun I'll have making em'!" Slap him while you can.

To present the "best onscreen team" award, "American Pie's" Jason Biggs and Allison Hannigan were introduced with this script. "This girl has just appeared as the cover girl of FHM magazine while this guy grossly masturbated before it."

Uuuh, sticky situation.

Tickled pink

When the award was handed to winners Elijah Wood, Sean Astin and Gollum a.k.a. the funny but schizophrenic bunch from "The Lord of the Rings," the otherwise wholesome Wood said with his trademark wide eyed surprised look, "Holy Shit!" I don't think Gandolph would be pleased.

Brit posh couple David Beckham and his wife Victoria, too chic and chi chi for comfort didn't seem to mind at all when Colin Farrell accepted his "Trans Atlantic Breakthrough award with this speech—"I have to thank Jennifer Garner, coz she thanked me earlier during her speech. Why she thanked me, I don't f*ck%ng know."

This was followed by an S&M inspired performance by Pink, who always injects some homo erotic action in her work. Well, maybe it's half meant. During one of the Asian awards that I attended, I remember she tried to pick up one of our local VJs, inviting her to view her pink...bed. Of course, our local VJ didn't exactly get tickled pink with the proposal.

Talking about body contact, I heard screams from the audience when all of a sudden, Adrien Brody paid lip service to Queen Latifah! It was a long and wet French tongue massage—a spoof of his Oscar moment with Halle Berry. He was indeed, "good to mama."

Also elicitng guffaws from the audience was all the "ass talk" with the ass sequence done by the "Charlie's Angels" which reminded me of a bad episode of "T.O.D.A.S." with Tito, Vic and Joey. But because its Cameron, Drew and Lucy, and not Freida Fonda—they get away, with high marks for not taking themselves—and their rights, seriously.

Irreverent fetish

Even the virtual performance of Gollum was not spared. "Piss off, you f*ck^ng pr*ck!" now if Yoda cursed, the force might have left him, so it's good that they just let him be. Later, I ask teenage star Amanda Bynes, the only one who didn't curse. "I know, I noticed that, too. It's not that I don't—I do. But not at an awards show." Despite that, she still found Colin cute.

But the show's climax was when the much hyped "lesbian-Russian-teenage" (doesn't it sound so fetish?) sensation t.A.T.U. came onstage with a bevy (175, to be exact) of schoolgirls dancing all over the auditorium. The screen showed a faux tabloid clipping, "HIDE YOUR DAUGHTERS! RUSSIAN POP SEXSATION HITS BRITAIN!" and they spring out, go wild and later strip to their undies. End of song, and two dancers positioned right behind the duo kiss, and the whole male contingent of the audience get hard ons.

But the best thing about attending awards shows in a show biz crazy town like L.A. is that you feel the excitement, and everything happens right before your very eyes. Celebrities pass by nonchalantly right under your nose, but even before you bring out your camera to take a snapshot, hoping to land in the pages of Cecile Zamora's Almost Famous column in Flip, the star's manager and bouncer come pouncing at you as if you're about to raid King Tut's tomb.

And it's not all sex and cuss, ladies and gentlemen. The show's take on the "superhero" theme was really hip, fresh and full of color. From comic strip video loops to their post modern metropolis set up to the big words "amazing, spine-tingling..." you'd really feel as if you were inside a giant comic book. And the attendance of stars, celebrities, even society types like the Hilton sisters (though they've always been endearingly KSP) was more than impressive.

Then again, the MTV Movie Awards is expected to be irreverent—they'll go where no awards show has gone, trashing all the tried and tested formulas of tribute from this side of show biz. And in a world that relies heavily on rah-rah routine and old people worship, its actually refreshing, and fun. Sick pleasure, if you feel like calling it that.

"I like!" You'll find yourself shrieking with delight. And you'll even admit it.

The MTV Movie Awards will premiere on June 14 at 2 p.m. with a replay on June 15 at 9 p.m. and is brought to you by Globe Gentxt.

"2 FAST 2 Furious"" Paul Walker.

THE BACHELOR himself, Andrew Firestone and his fiancee Jen Schefft.

HUGH Jackman, why didn't you go topless?

SADAKO was freaky but Samara's way cute.

THE BIG Hit: Mark Wahlberg.

KATE Bosworth left her surfboard at home.

MAY the force be with you. Samuel L. Jackson.

WANTED! CELEBS Who'll not Run for Office

SHOW biz people listen up: Einsteins you are not. In my book, you all suck!

Stop running for public office. Stop pushing useless products. Make a difference, folks, because in this country you are the only people that people actually listen to.

With the power to influence so many, it seems such a waste that *Pinoy* celebrities seem content to use their influence for pure personal gain. This is where American celebrities are so advanced. Generations of Hollywood bigwigs have used their status to push causes that make a difference in society. Richard Gere was permanently banned from the Oscars after screaming obscenities at the Chinese government for their treatment of Tibet when he was asked to present an award. Recently, Bono of U2 became the first artist ever nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Audrey Hepburn, a refugee herself, devoted the latter years of her life travelling the world as a UN spokesperson. Bob Geldof organized Band Aid in the '80s which was replicated by Quincy Jones and company with USA for Africa. The latter had the song "We Are The World," which became permanently tattooed in our collective consciousness. Dozens of other international celebrities have used their position to spread whatever message they were passionate about. That takes real balls to take a stand even if it is controversial, to accept the backlash from your own fans just because you believe in it.

Locally, it seems that every famous person thinks that the only way to go is to run for public office. Hello pals: Telling jokes, having 20 dancers lift you up while lip-synching, and running a country simply isn't the same thing. Bottom line is our celebrities aren't willing to go all out for their causes because at the end of the day it might jeopardize their careers, their well-kept imeyds (image), and consequently their paychecks. Sure, a few show biz personalities have their pet charities, but I don't hear anyone talking about their causes half as much as they talk about their product endorsements. When was the last time you heard your favorite telenovela icon talk about corruption in government? Everyone seems so formulaic, straight out of some cookie-cutter show biz mold, that it makes me wonder, "Were all these beautiful shells, replicas bred in the human energy farms of 'The Matrix?'"

It wouldn't be fair to say that all artists are so. Two local artists who have gone against this norm are the Apo Hiking Society and Gary V. Danny, Buboy, and Jim have been proudly pro-Filipino at critical moments in our nation's history. All you Gen-Y'ers out there should ask your *kuyas* and *ates* to teach you the lyrics of "American Junk." During the crusade against the US bases, when Danny of Apo, a.k.a. Pidro, started singing "American Junk Get Out of My System," my brown, *Pinoy* heart was swelling with pride. That song rocks! I still feel however that even Apo could do more of this on a regular basis and not just during revolutions.

Gary V., who started off as a Michael Jackson wannabe, has found his voice and his image—all tied to his Christian message. The first time I saw Gary V. perform was on "Penthouse Live." He was in an outfit straight out of the "Thriller" video, red leather, mega-shoulder pads and of course, The Silver Glove. Other than the two, I see no other shining lights in the sea of self-serving darkness.

To add insult to injury we see hordes of show biz personalities, dressed in black, hogging the news protesting against an increase in their taxes. I feel that they should welcome the opportunity to give some of their money back to government. Even the crusade against piracy, while noble, is certainly motivated by personal monetary interests.

If there is any doubt that it is the celebrities who have the power, we only have to look at our Senate. Half of these people are either media personalities themselves or married to ones. No teacher, politician, or billionaire can gather thousands of people at the snap of their fingers. When I go to the province I see entire families in groups of 10, from the 82-year-old *lolo* to the two-month-old baby, glued to their TV screens from sunrise to sunset getting their daily show biz fix.

Who would have thought that the three Filipinos who have made it to the cover of Time magazine are Cory Aquino, Donita Rose and recently Chin Chin Gutierrez? Two out of three are straight out of the show biz world. (Doesn't having a daughter like Kris make Cory show biz too?

Talking about Cory Aquino, I reminisced about Ninoy as I watched the hordes of people and hours of prime time TV coverage for Rico Yan's funeral. Ninoy's funeral in '83 seemed to have the same amount of public attention as Rico Yan's. Watching the thousands march along Ortigas last year, it became clear to our entire country that show biz celebrities matter much, much more than anyone gives them credit for.

I am still hoping beyond hope that in my lifetime a Filipino or Filipina celebrity will step up to the plate and say, "I'm here for a reason, and I wanna be heard!" I don't need any more endorsers telling me I need whiter skin, silkier hair, or better quality corned beef.

I need heart! I need soul! I'd like to hear real words from a real person, not just stuff off a script. Trust me, when one of these show biz folks decides to become a hero I'll be first in line applying as fan club president.

LAST BLAST BEFORE THE NEW SCHOOLYEAR STARTS

HERE's what some of the city's bars have in store for you this weekend:

The place: '70s Bistro
The location: 46 Anonas st., Project 2, Quezon City
The number: 434-3597
The entertainment: Saturday: Pinikpikan Band (9:30 p.m.)

The place: Aruba Bar and Restaurant
The location: 2/F Plantation Building, Libis, Quezon City
The number: 637-5101
The entertainment: Saturday: Club Music (9:30 p.m.)

The place: Bedrock Bar and Grill Restaurant
The location: M. Adriatico st., Manila
The number: 522-7279 to 80
The entertainment: Saturday: Part-E (9:30 p.m.) Excel (10:45 p.m.) **Sunday:** Zonatta (9:00 p.m.) MMC (10:15 p.m.)

The place: Blue Onion
The location: Orchard Road, Eastwood City Walk, E. Rodriguez Jr. ave., Quezon City
The number: 421-1862 to 63
The entertainment: Saturday: Dance Music featuring in-house DJs (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Cafe Havana
The location: 1903 M. Adriatico st., Remedios Circle, Malate Manila
The number: 521-8097
The entertainment: Saturday: Puro Ritmo (11:00 p.m.)

The place: Conways
The location: Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala ave., cor. Makati ave., Makati City
The number: 840-0884
The entertainment: Saturday: Freestyle (8:30 p.m.)

The place: Dish
The location: Power Plant Mall 3/F Cinema 1 Level
The number: 898-1824
The entertainment: Saturday: Parliament Syndicate (9:30 p.m.) Rage (11:00 p.m.)

The place: Hard Rock Cafe
The location: Glorietta Glorietta 3 Level 3 Ayala Center Makati City
The number: 893-4661
The entertainment: Saturday: Passage (9:30 p.m.)

The place: Merk's Bar Bistro
The location: Greenbelt 3 Level 3 Ayala Center, Makati City
The number: 757-4721
The entertainment: Saturday: Mae Romero (5:30 p.m.) Toy Symphony (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Monk's Dream
The location: Power Plant Mall 151 A Ground Floor Rockwell Drive
The number: 898-0340
The entertainment: Saturday: Romy Posadas Quartet with Sandra Lim-Viray (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Piper's
The location: 103 C. Palanca st., Legaspi Village, Makati City
The number: 887-0105, 887-0107
The entertainment: Saturday: Dream Sequence (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Ratsky's Bar and Restaurant
The location: 1663 J. Bocobo st., Malate Manila
The number: 523-8608, 523-8610
The entertainment: Saturday: Poetry (9:00 p.m.) Bulk (10:30 p.m.) Sunday: Freshmen (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Ratsky's Bar and Restaurant
The location: 243 Tomas Morato st., cor. Scout Fuentebella, Quezon City
The number: 373-9881 to 83
The entertainment: Saturday: Tribe of Levi (9:00 p.m.) Time Machine (10:30 p.m.) **Sunday:** Big Men (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Sanctum*Unmasct
The location: Chamber 9, Puerta Isabel II, Muralla st., Intramuros Manila
The number: 523-5407
The entertainment: Saturday: Snafu (10:00 p.m.)

The place: Siete Pecados
The location: Westin Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Roxas blvd., Pasay City
The number: 551-5555
The entertainment: Saturday: Illustra (8:45 p.m.) Hyp 2 Soul (10:15 p.m.)

The place: Streetlife
The location: Glorietta Glorietta 3 Level 3 Ayala Center Makati City
The number: 817-8963, 817-9011
The entertainment: Saturday: Kaktooz (8:30 p.m.) Wallstreet (10:00 p.m.)

The place: Suburbia
The location: 1718 M. Adriatico st., cor. Alonzo st., Malate Manila
The number: 450-1685 to 86, 523-9760
The entertainment: Saturday: Freeverse (9:30 p.m.) M Power (10:45 p.m.)

The place: Tapika Resto-Bar
The location: 220 Katipunan rd., Blue Ridge, Quezon City
The number: 647-8033
The entertainment: Saturday: U-Turn (9:30 p.m.) **Sunday:** Invocan (9:30 p.m.)

The place: Tavern On The Square
The location: Greenbelt 3 Unit 226 Level 2 Ayala Center Makati City
The number: 757-4484
The entertainment: Saturday: Real Groove (9:30 p.m.)

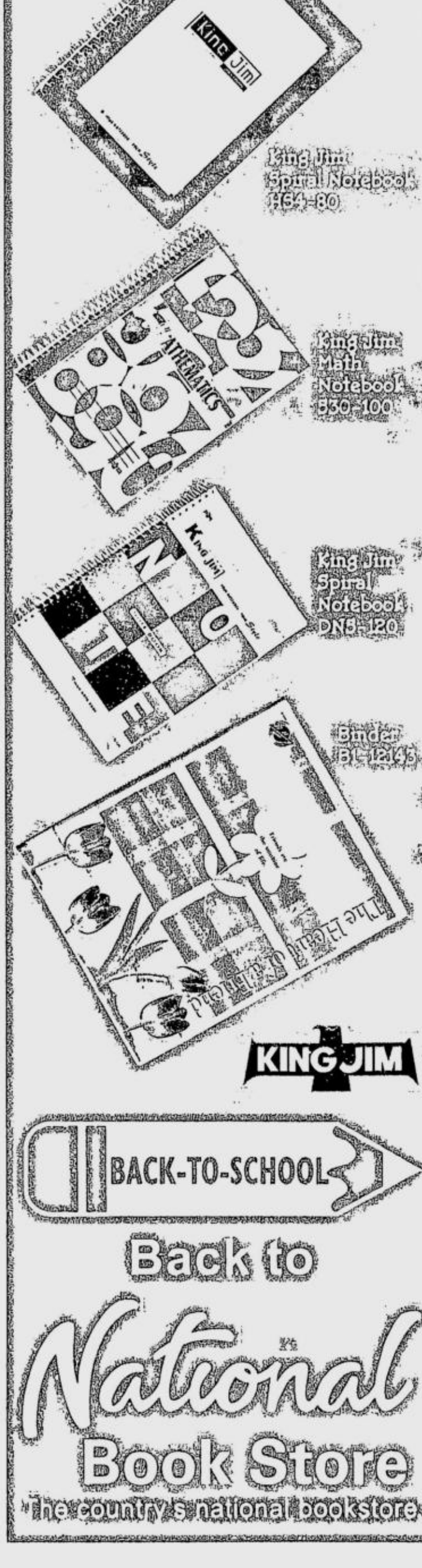
The place: The Forum
The location: The Podium Level 3 18 ADB ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
The number: 637-2630, 637-2623
The entertainment: Saturday: Chillworx (9:00 p.m.)

The place: Virgin Cafe
The location: 308 Tomas Morato ext., Quezon City
The number: 926-8039, 373-8766, 373-8761, 373-8762
The entertainment: Saturday: Pido with Take One (9:45 p.m.) Orange (11:00 p.m.) **Sunday:** X Power (9:45 p.m.)

The place: Watering Hole
The location: Shangri-la Plaza Mall Edsa cor. Shaw blvd. Mandaluyong City
The number: 634-0284, 634-0288
The entertainment: Saturday: Mocha w/ Spin Art (10:00 p.m.)

The place: Xaymaca
The location: 71 Timog ave., Quezon City
The number: 4142302
The entertainment: Saturday: Indio I (9:00 p.m.)

Go spiral this school year!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Back to National Book Store

The country's national bookstore

THE HERO PEDESTAL

Pinoy fans worship movie stars; where else will they turn to for heroes? The government?

Pam Pastor

Pinoy heroes and heroines in movies and TV shows always come out as winners. Scary gun-wielding men with moustaches cannot kill them, evil stepsisters cannot kill them, even fires and bombs cannot kill them. They are raped, slapped, maimed and acid-attacked and yet they still emerge victorious - and as good-looking as ever. Unlike in real life, all problems disappear by the time the credits start rolling.

This almost comedic phenomenon is the reason fans elevate their favorite stars to hero status. Real life is too grim. There's traffic, floods, paychecks that disappear too fast, crime, real danger. A peek into the fantasy world that movie stars live in makes things easier, even just for the weekend.

Never mind that all of us, even movie stars, have to return to reality the rest of the week.

What would happen if your favorite Pinoy celebrities mutated into your favorite comic book superheroes?

Super! asked two brilliant artists, Robert Magnuson and Gilbert Monsanto, to whip up their magic. This is what they came up with:

REGINE Velasquez as Wonder Woman

(CLOCKWISE from left) Aga Muhlach as Spiderman, Jolina Magdangal as Wonder Woman, Carlos Agassi as Wolverine, Richard Gomez as Superman, Benjie Paras as The Incredible Hulk.

GROUP ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT MAGNUSON

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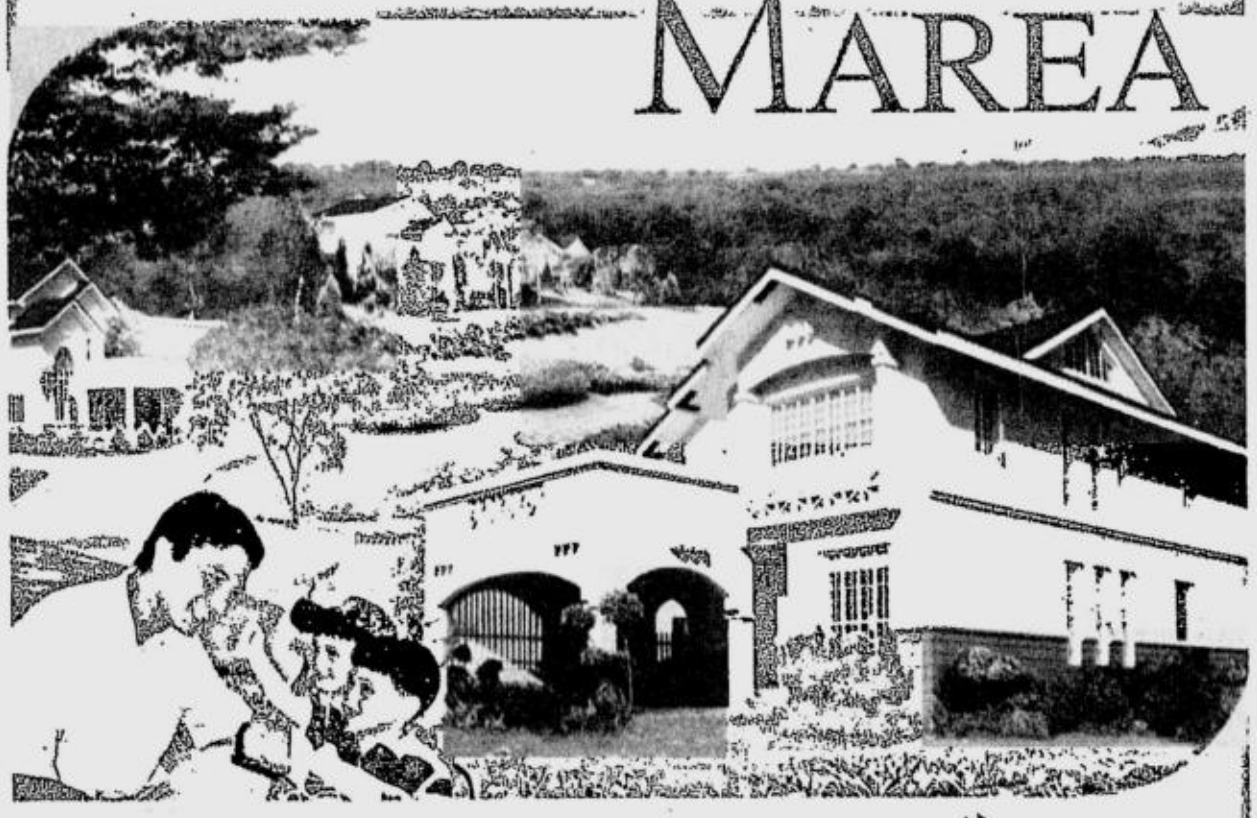

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PIOLO Pascual as Green Lantern

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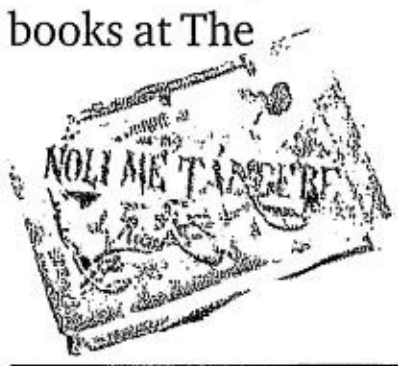
CHARACTER ILLUSTRATIONS BY GILBERT MONSANTO

A bookworm's paradise at no cost

One can actually redeem his or her Filipino identity by going through books at The National Library



By Raquel P. Gomez

THIS PLACE can make you forget your existence for an afternoon and instead transfer you to worlds beyond your imagination. It can nurture your intelligence as well as your spiritual side if you can have a daily dose of books from its shelf. And everything you will gain here is for free--all you have to do is to find time to visit the place.

The National Library of the Philippines is more than an institution to the millions of students and patrons who have passed through its glass doors. High-ceilinged and wide spaced reading rooms, airy hallways, that distinct smell of antiquity, and shelves upon shelves of books that extend from one wall to another-it is a bookworm's and a student's paradise.

Today, this government cultural agency has more than a million collections that include books, serials, manuscripts, maps and audio-visual materials. It has 11 divisions that include a big collection for Asia and Oceania, Reference Division and the Filipiniana. It even has a Library for the Blind located on the ground floor. The library, which is currently in the process of computerization, also has a website, www.nlp.gov.ph.

In The National Library's collections of the Filipiniana Division can be found treasures of cultural, historical and national heritage. This refers to all books published and printed in the Philippines.

In fact, one can actually redeem his or her Filipino identity by going through books that date back to the 1500s in the rare section or the special collection of noted Filipino writers such as Atang dela Rama, Julian Francisco Cruz Balmaceda, Honorio Lopez, Lope K. Santos.

Philippine history has found a sanctuary in The National Library as original works of national hero Jose Rizal are kept here as well as other historical materials such as the Philippine insurgent records. These documents covering the period 1899 to 1903 were seized by the American forces and were taken to the United States, but eventually the US government returned them in 1958 and turned over to The National Library.

The rare books and manuscripts division is an outstanding collection of more than 14,000 volumes, ranging from 1523 to 1945. The National Library is in possession of the very first book written about the Philippines, titled "De Moluccis Insulis" written in October 1522 by German student Obewald and was published in Cologne, France in 1523.

"Docrtina Christiana," the very first book printed in the Philippines in 1593 can also be found here as well as "Sucesos De Islas Filipinas" written by Dr. Antonio de Morga and published by Jose Rizal in Paris in January 1890. The book tells of the condition of Filipinos during the Spanish period.

The National Library's creation can be traced back to the last decade of Spanish colonial period with the establishment of the Museo-Biblioteca de Filipinas in 1891, according to Prudenciana Cruz, director of The National Library. Open to the public free of charge, this library was located on Gunao Street, Quiapo, Manila and its collection was all of about 100 Filipiniana works. The library was damaged during the Philippine-American War. The recovered volumes became part of the collection of the American Circulating Library in the 1900s. The American military government acquired the library in 1901.

In 1908, the Philippine Assembly created the Philippine Library Act, and henceforth the library was renamed as Philippine Library and its location was again transferred to Intramuros. For a while, it was merged with the National Museum. So many transfers and renaming, the library was even located in the former Bilibid Prison, the Legislative Building, the Philippine Assembly Building in Quiapo and even in Arlegui Street in Malacañang.

Finally, in 1961, The National Library was housed in its permanent home located in Kalaw Street in Manila. It occupies a total floor space of 198,700 square feet.

Cruz said The National Library has survived many earthquakes; the most damaging in 1990. But it was still declared as safe by Japanese building experts. The National Library received funding for repair and restructure, still Cruz laments that more funds would be needed to maintain such a big library. Already, the building's roof is leaking, and the elevator malfunctions every now and then.

Funding for the library is the responsibility of the government. Cruz, however, wishes independent foundations or philanthropists would take notice of The National Library.

The National Library serves over a thousand users daily, most of them college students.

"When you work in the library, you always think of public service," says Cruz of her job as librarian. "The National Library is a public service institution. We cater not only to the students but also to the people of different ages, people that are physically handicapped, the senior citizens, the young ones."

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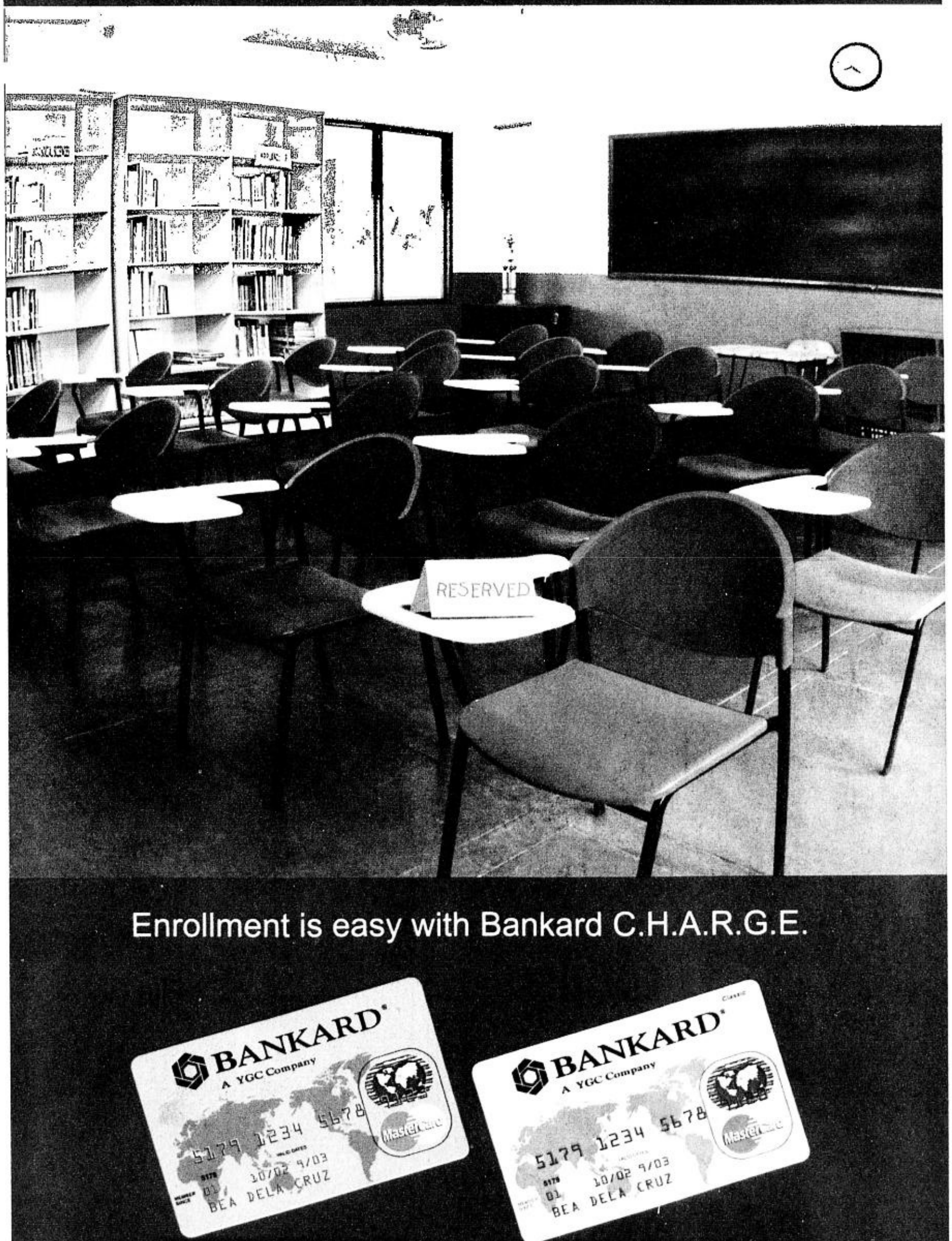

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When there's need for a tutor

By Marlet D. Salazar

IS YOUR child having a hard time coping with lessons in class? Can you identify the factors that prevent the student from keeping up with his or her classmates?

Sometimes parents cannot assist their children with their homework. This is where tutoring comes into the picture.

Tutoring is not new. Before, teachers would suggest if a pupil needed extra help in school. Tutoring merely evolved to meet the needs of each child that are different from one another.

Tutorial centers are flourishing. Some offer reinforcements to help the student with the loads of assignments in school, others serve as supplement education to prepare them for harder tasks.

Obelia Lacanilao-Cutiongco of Dynaminds Tutorial Center in Marikina said most children who come to them are 40 percent slow learners (or have difficulty in certain subjects) and 60 percent are those whose parents cannot help them.

Tutoring assists the child in areas he or she has difficulty with. "This problem can hardly be detected in schools with 40 to even 60 students in one class," Cutiongco said.

Sacred Heart School director Rowena Matti confirms this problem. "Not all 40 or so students are in the same pace of learning," she said.

Because there is a curriculum that must be followed, students need to jump to another topic without fully mastering the previous one.

In Dynaminds, the teacher will come up with a program that suits the needs of each child. The idea is to reinforce the lessons the students have taken up in school and help them with their assignments. The sessions are on a one-on-one basis.

Cutiongco, a speech and drama major at the University of the Philippines, identified the three types of learners: Auditory, or those who need to hear aloud what is written on the board or the book; the visual learner where everything taught should be seen; and the kinesthetic, or those who need to experience the lesson, or there should be something like a story on the side.

Before designing the program for the students, they will be given an assessment test to determine the areas of their difficulty. Tapping the child's genuine interest to learn is an interactive way of teaching him or her, said Cutiongco who also has a background in psychology and education and used to be with Speechpower. If she sees the child likes to play, "make it learning through play." Aside from the program, they also get the outline of the lessons taken up in school.

Cutiongco trained her teachers to give lots of praises even if the child was unable to get a "perfect" mark on the work given to him. She also encourages parents to take part in the process and serve as their link to the teachers in school.

"It is a fulfillment for us if we let them go," she said.

If after several sessions and the child hardly improves, Cutiongco will refer the parents to a child psychologist to see if the child has a learning disability.

Somehow, she said, the tutorial center was able to help students in class and see the grades improve. "But I'm not saying that our strategy works for all, but it has helped a lot of students that we handled," she said.

The Kumon factor

Kumon, on the other hand, enforces mastery of subjects and skills.

"There must be a good foundation of the very basic lessons before a child can go to the next level," said Matti.

Based on the diagnostic tests they give, the teachers will look for the most comfortable level of the child. Only when the child was able to reach the 100-percent grade will he move on to the next level. The learning pace of the child is one of the major concerns of Kumon. He will have to do over and over one worksheet until the satisfaction of perfecting it is achieved. The idea is "practice makes perfect".

The process also lets them develop study habits. Parents' participation is again encouraged in this task. Kumon then becomes a home study program where parents need to remind, and if possible, assist their child on the work at hand.

Kumon students are not all slow learners. "Some just want to get ahead," said Matti who introduced Kumon at SHS in 1991 after she trained under a Japanese teacher who teaches only to Japanese students. She was also quick to point out that Kumon shouldn't be seen as a regular tutorial class. "This is supplementary to their school math and even reading," she said.

For preschoolers, worksheets are designed in ways that will capture their attention. Colorful and big letters or numbers are used to help them easily recognize and quickly recall them. Toddlers will start with lessons on how to draw lines. Until they are ready will the teachers introduce numbers and letters.

Dynaminds Tutorial Center is located at 23 Lilac Rimview Park, Marikina City, with telephone numbers 942-3952.

Sacred Heart School is at Sabio Street, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City (near San Lorenzo Village. Call 810-8506, 894-2273.

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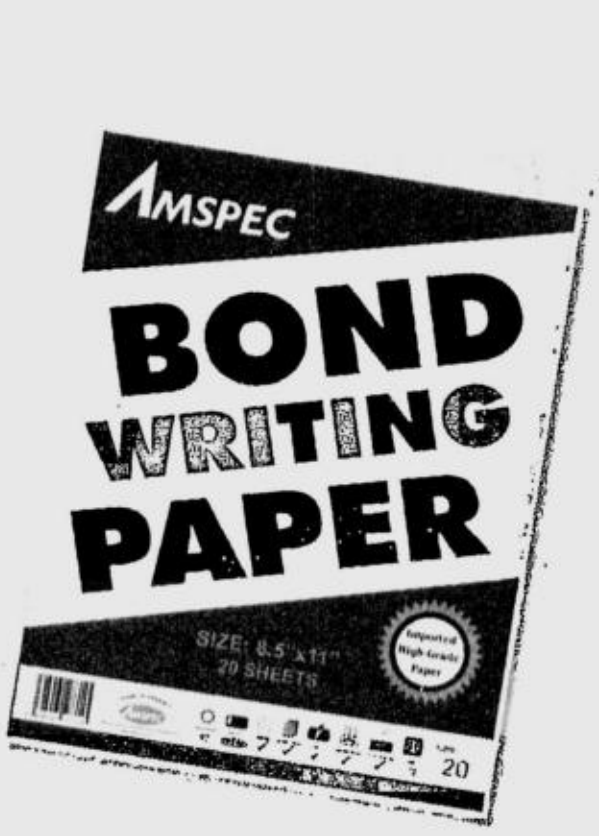

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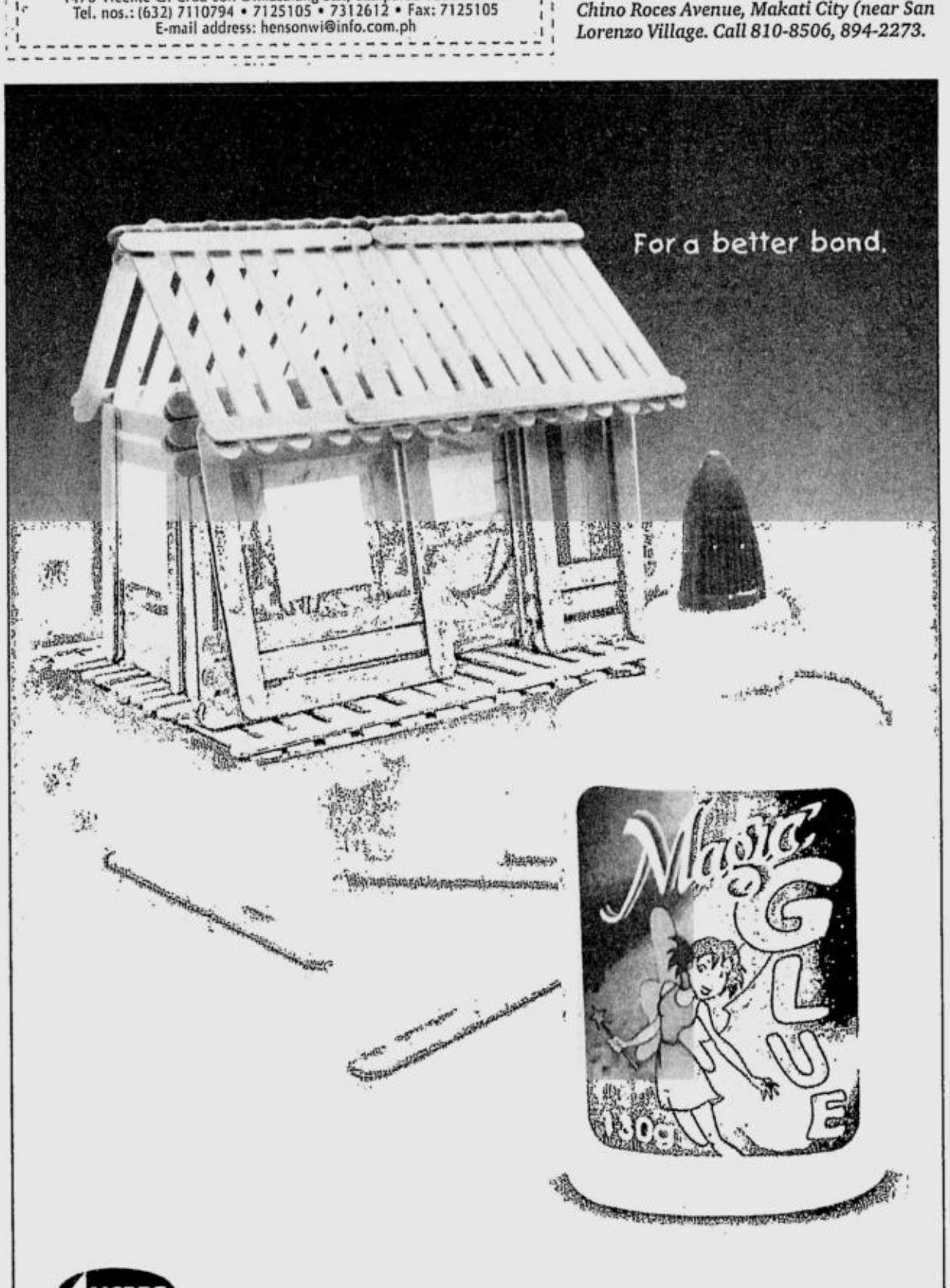

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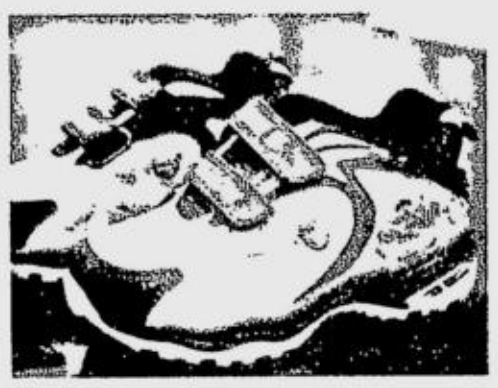
Trendy gear for the new school year

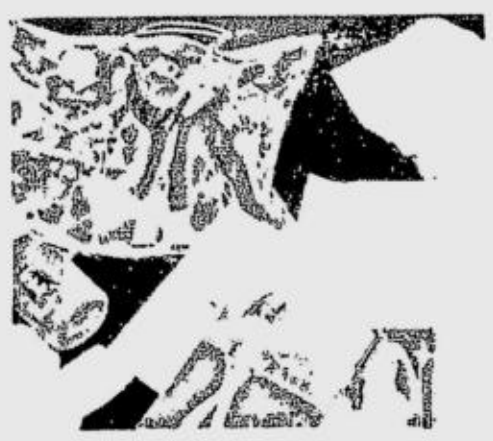
IT'S school time once again and what a better way to greet the new school year than welcoming it in style.

Good thing that the kids are now prepared for school, but are the things they would be wearing and using also ready?

Richwell Trading Corp. offers a complete line of fashionable shoes for boys and girls alike. From sporty to casual to formal, kids would love these trendy school gear as they go on their way to school.

Stylish school items with matching Barbie designs are also available from notebooks, socks, raincoats to water jugs and school bags in classy plastic.





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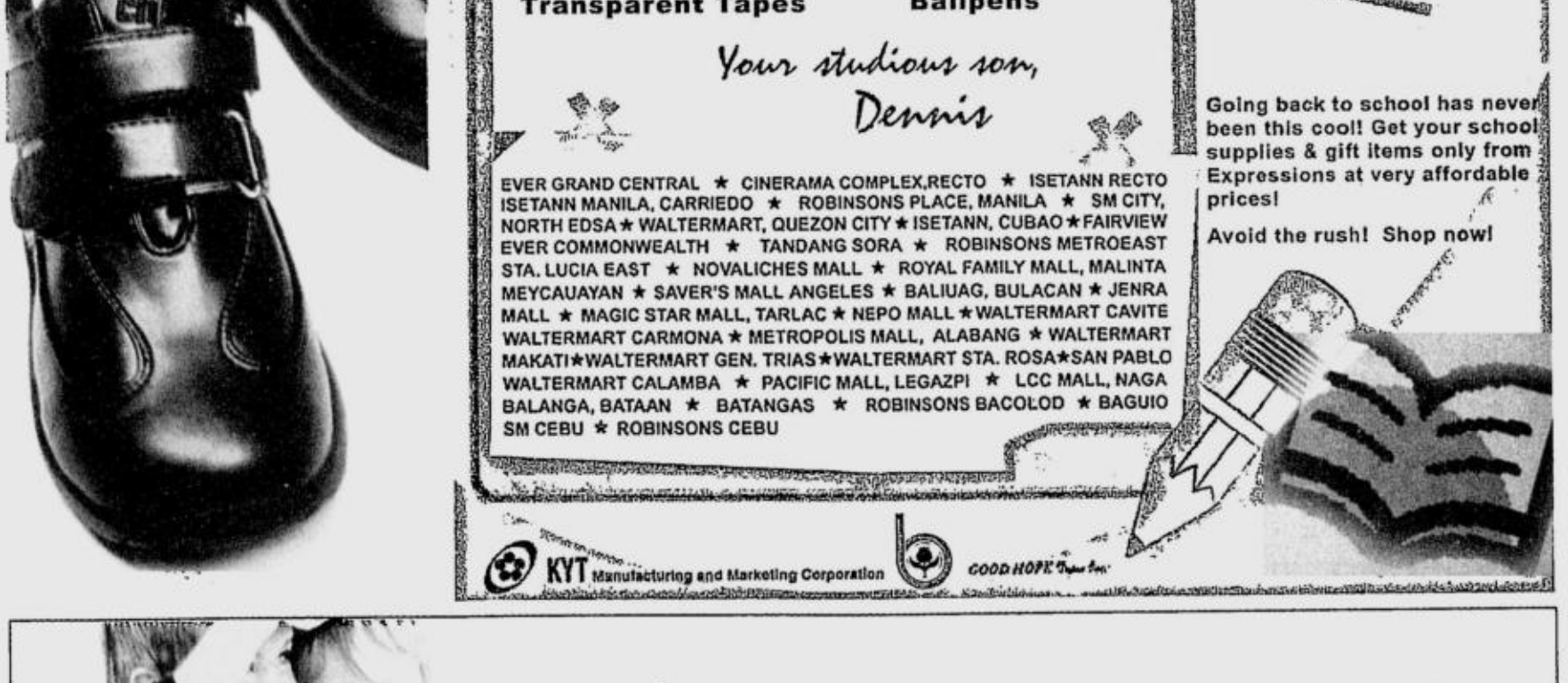
This back-to-school season, go with one of the trendiest gel pens in the market today - Leonel Gel Pens. Available in different styles and colors, these pens are the choice of smart and practical individuals because they write beautifully and are refillable, unlike other gel pens and sign pens. When you buy these pens, Leone gel pen sales ladies in black and yellow shirts will help you choose the gel pen that fits your needs and your personality. Leone gel pens are locally distributed by Star Paper Corp. and are available in leading bookstores nationwide.



Exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corporation Tel. no. 7226141 to 47 Available at all leading department stores and shoe stores nationwide.

Know your Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts tools

LI'L Hands Art Gel Papers are dark-colored papers specially made for pastel and metallic gel pens, Li'l Hands Art Gel Paper comes in a 4x6" and 8.5x11 sizes, in writing and doodle pads. Li'l Hands Art Gel papers go beyond the regular daily writing routine. It is best used as an instrument to personalize postcards and greeting cards, and design colorful personalized invitations.

Li'l Hands launches its new line of special colored papers to add to its wide range of arts and crafts products. The special papers come in 10 assorted colors per pouch, in four skus: Fluorescent papers, Fluorescent boards, Construction papers, and Construction boards.

The papers are highly recommended for young and adult craft lovers who would like to discover new designs and combinations with their Li'l Hands markers, watercolor, oil pastel, color pencils, and crayons. The special papers are good media in expressing creativity in paper cutting and folding. Li'l Hands Special Papers are best used for classroom decors, personalized cards, posters, and frame backgrounds.

The new Li'l Hands Drawing Book comes in three sizes: 6x9", 9x12", and 10.5x15". The pages are highly recommended for young art lovers who would like to discover new techniques with their Li'l Hands markers, watercolor, oil pastel, color pencil, or crayons. The pages are uniquely designed for easy tearing. Covers are in full color featuring the lovable Li'l Hands mascots.

Li'l Hands playful characters tell stories and help out in creative activities in Li'l Hands Coloring Books. It is designed with highly visual figures for exciting, creative, and fun coloring. There are 10 titles to collect from in the Growing Up Beginner's series: "ABC of Human Anatomy", "Amusing Numbers", "Aquarium Life", "Faces & Movements", "Fairy Land", "Familiar Shapes", "Friendly Neighborhood", "Funny Opposites", "Growing, Traveling", and "Stop, Look and Laugh".

Li'l Hands Erasable Crayons are made from high-quality raw materials and pigments for good and easy color application and blending. It erases coloring mistakes easily so beginners won't be upset when they make wrong coloring applications. Li'l Hands Erasable Crayons come in an organized tray with 10-color sticks, sharpener, and eraser.

Li'l Hands Oil Pastels are soft and easy to apply. It is formulated for superior adherence. The oil pastel sticks rub light, for watermark effect, and heavy, to achieve opaque colors. Its soft sticks are made for easy blending and mixing to produce another color. These are available in sets of 12s and 24s.

The **Li'l Hands Watercolor-Oil Pastels**, by the name itself, has the unique effects of watercolor and oil pastel rolled into one product. Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts Water Pastel is soft and easy to apply. It is formulated for superior adherence and made with the best quality pigment. Colors can be easily blended together using a brush and water. Dry pastel can also be used on wet paper. This technique gives strength to the colors and gives play on bold and delicate lines. These are available in sets of 12 and 24s.

Li'l Hands Tempera Paint has vibrant and brilliant colors, characterized as opaque or non-transparent colors. It is child-friendly because of its easy color mixing properties and suitable for painting on drawing papers. It conforms to both European (EN71) and American (ASTM D4236) safety standards, which ensures completely safe use of an art product. Li'l Hands Tempera Paint comes in 12 color jumbo dry cake. It has unique and slick tray design that comes with a mixing palette and art brush.

Li'l Hands Colored Pencils now come in 24-color assortment. The initial set available in the market is a 12-color assortment. Li'l Hands Color pencils have high quality, strong, and smooth leads. It comes with high quality wood for easy sharpening. Pencils are woodclinched to ensure minimal breakage. The lead is made of high quality wax and pigments for bright, bold, easy to apply and easy to blend colors. Brightly colored pencils come in non-toxic paints and designed to build eye-hand coordination.

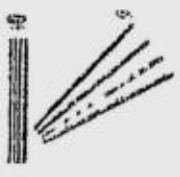
Li'l Hands White Glue is a specialized glue ideal for arts and crafts, and which also bonds leather, wood, ceramics, cloth, and Styrofoam. Aside from the regular "school glue" use, it is best used as a non-toxic gloss finish on all arts and crafts projects when diluted in water. It is easy to apply and dries fast and clear.

Li'l Hands Scented Glue is made from high-grade pigments and high-quality polymer. Four individual scents are food grade. Aside from its good adhesion, it can be used to create sparkling designs-for wood-crafts and glass art. The glue maintains its scent and color when dried. It dries 3-D, having the illusion of depth or varying distances. Li'l Hands Scented Glue is water-based and colors could be mixed. Fruity scents come in apple, banana, orange, and grape.

Li'l Hands Scented Stick Glue comes in three sweet scented sticks of magenta, white and blue. It is a soft paste that is neat and easy to use for children. Colors serve as application guide for users. Colors fade as the glue dries. Li'l Hands Scented Stick Glue are washable and could be used also for cloth-to-paper adhesion.

Li'l Hands Fun Craft Scissors comes in 12 fun designs in different and exciting colors-an addition to its wide range of arts and crafts products. Li'l Hands Fun Craft Scissors are made from high-quality plastic and sharp blade for precision cutting. It suits both right and left-handed, easily cuts and shapes paper and lightweight cloth. Li'l Hands Fun Craft Scissors are good art tools for classroom decors, personalized cards, posters, and frame cut designs.

Li'l Hands Craft Scissors come in yellow, green, red and orange colors. It helps develop dexterity and builds eye-hand coordination. Craft Scissors are designed with blunt rounded ends and plastic guided blades for safety. Li'l Hands Craft Scissors are safety scissors for kids-no hairs, no clothes, no skin cuts. Best for beginners and kids.



Li'l Hands Pencils come in Jumbo for preschoolers, to Fancy for cool and hip graders, and Mechanical for high school students and professionals. Jumbo pencils are good for beginners, big enough for little children to hold. The pencil is woodclinched and comes with an extra thick lead to minimize lead breakage. Neon lemon erasers match the brightly colored pencils that make children more attracted to fun writing. Rubber tips do not damage nor break paper and does not leave eraser marks.

Fancy Pencils are made from the highest-grade California cedar slats. It comes with sturdy leads and bright character designs children will love. Mechanical Pencils are made of strong, light, transparent barrel and high-density polymer lead. It comes with a push point mechanism and rubber grip for continuous and convenient writing. It comes with an "autorite" feature or automatic push-button feed control. It comes with a plastic clip and eraser under cap. Eraser tips match the color and character designs.

Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts products are non-toxic and safe for children to use. Li'l Hands products are available in leading bookstores nationwide. Visit www.lilhands.com.

Available in all National Book Store branches, Shoe Mart, Expressions, Goodwill, Makro, Robinsons and other leading school and supply stores nationwide.

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Lotus and Assunta: The ultimate combination

LOTUS ultimate writing instrument has tapped multi-awarded celebrity Assunta de Rossi to endorse its products. Lotus has always been at the forefront of developing quality writing instruments at consumer-friendly prices. Its line includes the New Lotus Regular ballpen, needlepoint, retractogel, techpen, highlighters and permanent markers. Assunta de Rossi will be seen on television commercials, print ads in daily broadsheets and mall tours endorsing Lotus writ-

ing instruments. Lotus has also tapped Tado of Strangebrew fame to co-star alongside Assunta in the Lotus TV commercial. This back-to-school season livens up as you go back to school with Lotus and Assunta; the ultimate combination.

A mall tour is currently being planned for Assunta timed to coincide with the back to school season. This tour aims to bring Lotus and Assunta closer to the fans and consumers with an autograph signing session and product give aways to be held in major malls in Metro Manila.

Lotus will also have a back to school segment at the popular morning television show "Magandang Umaga Bayan" aired over ABS-CBN. In the segment, kids will be shown how Lotus ballpens can be used for fun and exciting artworks. This segment highlights the fact that Lotus ballpens are not only used for writing, but also can be an alternative tool in creating hip and cool art projects.

Available in all National Book Store branches, Shoe Mart, Makro, Big R and other leading school supply stores nationwide.

Products, activities that make kids smile

Mongol marks 150th year

THE COMPANY'S most loved brand, Mongol pencil, celebrated its longevity in the industry - 150th year in 1999. It has been said, time and time again: "Walang Batang Lumaki na Hindi Gumamit ng Mongol Pencil". Well, true. Mongol pencil has been handed down from generation to generation. Everyone knows what Mongol is. Mongol for Kids pencil, especially made for toddlers and young kids, is the perfect wood pencil for young beginners with its jumbo-sized hexaround pencil.

In cooperation with the Philippine Postal Office headed by then postmaster general Nicasio Rodriguez, a commemorative Mongol stamp has been issued. The stamp was unveiled and officially released.

Mongol Souvenir Frames were also presented to respected government and private institutions: Department of Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Museo Pambata, Ayala Museum, National Bookstore, Pilipinas Makro, Mercury Drugstore, and the Shoemart chain of stores.

Mongol Pencil was recently chosen to be the 2002 National Consumers Choice Awardee for being the Top Pencil Brand of the Year. This prestigious award was given in recognition of Mongol's exemplary product excellence, thus benefiting the general public. Evaluations were conducted in cooperation with the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and the Who's Who in the Philippines. Mongol pencils have been well known and accepted in the Philippines for over 150 years. Known for its distinctive black, gold and ferrule and its unique tea-like scent, Mongol has been a part of Filipinos' daily lives for the longest time. Amalgamated Specialties Corp. manufactures Mongol Pencils and other school and office supplies.

Mongol pencils currently has an ongoing segment in the popular morning television show "Magandang Umaga Bayan" aired over ABS-CBN. Kids are taught how to sketch and other fun and exciting artwork using Mongol products. The segment is conducted by Mongol's fully trained professional artists. This segment aims to enhance kids' innate creativity and artistic abilities.

Li'l Hands prominent with kids

AMSPEC believes in each child's innate creative talent. In 1998, Amspec launched Li'l Hands Arts and Crafts Kiddy Club. The club promotes fun learning through the use of the Li'l Hands Arts and Crafts products in all its activities. Li'l Hands is very prominent in mall tours, school tours and arts and crafts workshops and demos. Currently Li'l Hands has an ongoing Arts & Crafts segment in ABS-CBN's "Magandang Umaga Bayan". The segment focuses on creative things to do for the coming back-to-school season. Creativity is synonymous with Li'l Hands products - scented glue, oil pastel, water pastel, watercolor tempera, craft paper, color pencils and much more that tickles the creativity in each child.

Another Amspec kiddy program is the popular factory tour. Every year, Amspec opens its gates to educational field trips. Visitors come from as far as Quezon province and Pangasinan. Students, teachers and parents come to see how their favorite everyday school buddies Crayola crayons and Mongol pencils are made.

The Amspec factory and headquarter is located at Km. 21 South Super Highway, Muntinlupa City. Every year, around 250,000 students visit the factory as part of the school's educational tour. The students, mostly grade schoolers, experience the magic of making their favorite pencils and crayons - right before their very eyes. After all, they are Amspec's favorite customers.

'SCHOOL IS COOL' MALL TOUR

Ms. Crayola and Mr. Mongol mascots are the back-to-school icons to watch while you're shopping for your favorite school supplies. Amalgamated Specialties Corp., the maker of leading brands Mongol, Crayola, Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts, and Lotus ballpens, together with the mascots will go around town greeting shoppers- kids, teens and moms, to make the back-to-school shopping experience more enjoyable. The mascots will also go around the schools bringing fun arts and crafts workshops. For mascot appearance bookings call 842-1515 or 568-5868, or e-mail club@lilhands.com.

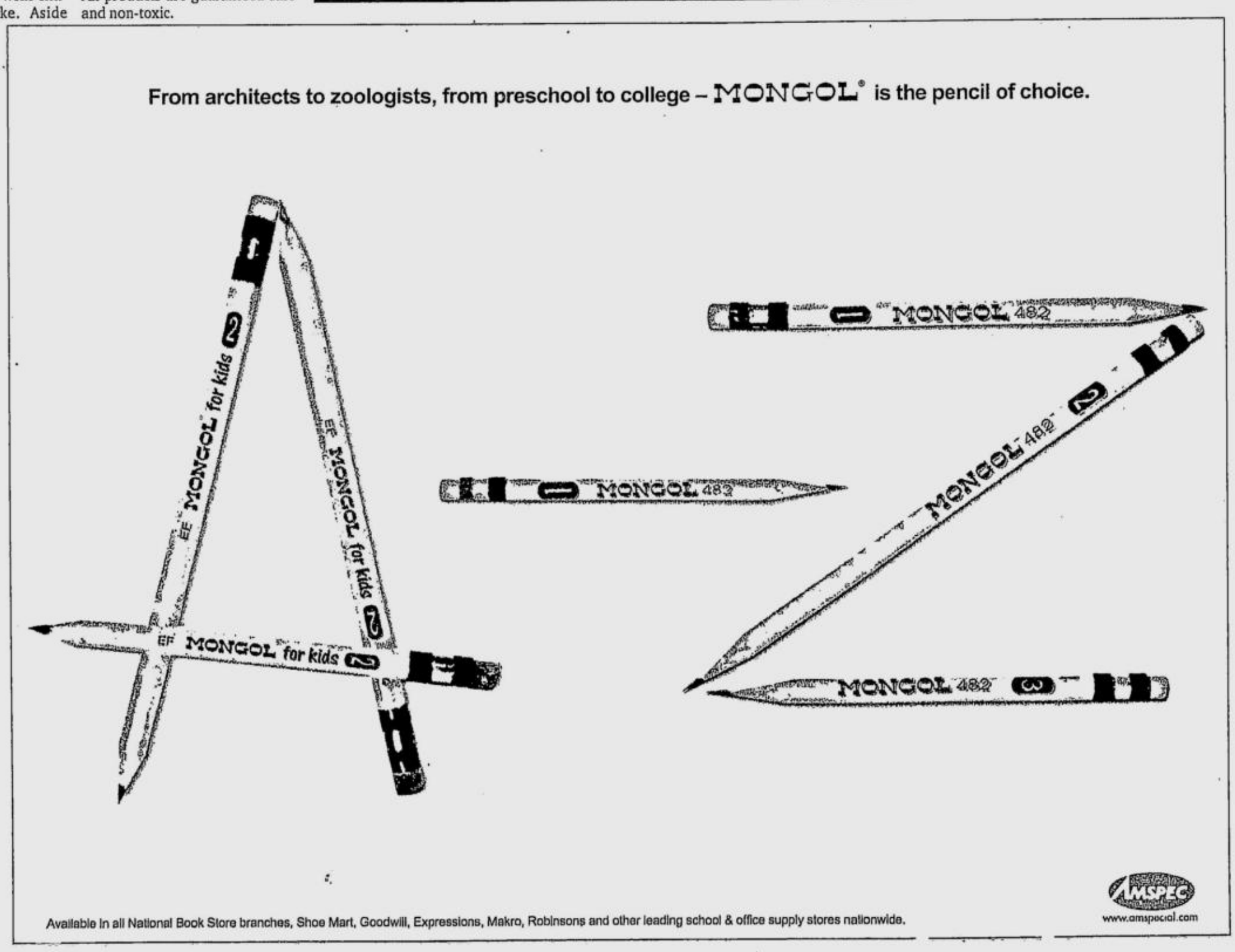
Synonymous to crayons

THE CRAYOLA brand has undoubtedly been synonymous to crayons since time immemorial. Crayola crayons are a regular part of parents' back-to-school buying list for their kids. Children just love the attractive colors of Crayola. Crayola crayons come in 8s, 16s, 24s, 48s and 64s. There is also Crayola So Big crayons for younger kids.

Recently, the National Consumers Choice Foundation awarded Crayola Crayons with its consumers Choice Award for being the Top Crayon Brand for 2002, given in recognition of the product's quality and its commitment to excellence, the award highlights Crayola's commitment to enhance the Filipino children's power of creativity through the use of crayons in letting their imaginations soar. Crayola crayons has called the Philippines home for over 40 years now, and is settling in for another 40 years of fun and happiness with children and adults alike. Aside from enhancing children's creative minds, Crayola also looks out for children's health by making sure that all Crayola products are non-toxic and safe for kids of all ages. Amspec manufactures Crayola and other school and office supplies.

Crayola currently has an ongoing segment in the popular morning television show "Magandang Umaga Bayan" aired over ABS-CBN. Kids are taught fun and exciting art projects on television using Crayola products. The segment is conducted by Crayola's professional artists.

Crayola products are advertised regularly on television, radio, newspapers and magazines. All products are guaranteed safe and non-toxic.



2003 ASIA-PACIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARDEE

Darlington: Outstanding Socks Maker

The original Official Socks of the Philippine Basketball Association of the 1988 and 2003 seasons, and the popular choice of sock-wearers of all class, age and sex, grabbed top honors in its field in the recently concluded 10th Annual Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards for 2003. The momentous event was held at the Ateneo University Theater in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

"We were not surprised, really, but we're all very happy and feel so much elated," a top Darlington executive remarked in response to the honors accorded their company's winning products.

Darlington Socks, already a by-word to the sports-minded and fashion-conscious, are comparable to any world-class products of its kind. Its current marketing slogan *"Walang himulmol sa loob ng sakong"* proclaims its superiority over all competition. And this cutting edge is achieved only through QUALITY - with the advantage of sophisticated Japanese technology and consultancy. The result is a complete line of socks and stockings *par excellence* for men, ladies, teens and infants.

While technology transfer from Japan plays a major role in the manufacturing process, Darlington's "comfort socks" are products made solely by Dowi Hosiery Mills, a 100% Filipino enterprise owning a modern plant on a vast land area of 10,000 square meters.

Within the Dowi compound one finds complete facilities from knitting to finishing–all fully equipped with the latest in computerized machines. Dowi is globally linked with major names in the international market, and this has something to do with its export-quality product thrusts for Darlington Socks. The company's commitment to QUALITY and its never-ending quest for excellence has paid off greatly in terms of progress and prestige, And the newest proof of such achievement is Darlington's recognition by the 2003 Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards as *the* "Outstanding Socks Maker".

DARLINGTON®

Walang Himumol Sa Loob Ng Sakong!

ALWAYS TAKING THE LEAD!

STICK ON CRAZE! WIN A CASH!

DARLINGTON®

WALANG HIMULMOL SA LOOB NG SAKONG!

Promo period: March 15, 2003 to October 30, 2003

DON'T MISS THE MONTHLY DRAWS!

• JUNE 27 • JULY 25 • AUGUST 29 • SEPTEMBER 26 • OCTOBER 31

The names of winners will be published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin* and *People's Journal*.

All winners will be notified through registered mail.

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TOP SELLER

First in the Philippine Market!

THE ALL-NEW, ALL-STYLE DARLINGTON PRODUCT LINES

LADIES

stk #8254 Fashion socks (metallic design)

stk #8621 Fashion socks (marble design)

stk #8432 Massage socks

stk #8217 Ghost socks

stk # ts204 Massage stockings (knee high)

stk # fco 4 Seamless Foot socks

stk # ms 02 Medical socks

stk # 9490 Fashion socks

MEN'S

stk # hso2 Health socks

stk # 9490 Fashion socks

KIDS

stk # 7975 Fashion socks (fur design)

stk # 5755 Fashion socks

THE FIRST & THE ORIGINAL OFFICIAL SOCKS OF THE PBA

PBA™

THE OFFICIAL SOCKS OF THE PBA

Nothing compares with the high quality, great comfort and winning style of Darlington. No wonder it was the original Official Socks of the PBA in 1988 (and again the PBA's choice for 2003). No wonder, too, for its world-class recognition as Outstanding Socks Maker with the prestigious Asia-Pacific Excellence Award for 2003. And no wonder at all for an achiever company whose superior products are the result of a consistent corporate philosophy: To excel only in what is excellent. Second to none, first of all, the best--that's the one and only Darlington Socks.

The First. The Best.

Off to a great start

Compiled by Joel V. Nigos
from www.about.com

THE START of a new school year is the time to make resolutions. Instead of making vague statements such as "I'm going to do better in school this year," here are some concrete ideas to help you get off to a great start.

Organize your schoolwork-Keep each subject in a separate book or separate your binder with dividers. Keep an agenda book to track all your assignment due dates and upcoming tests. Get a three-hole punch so that any loose papers can be added into your binder where they belong.

Develop a positive rapport with your teachers-Chat with your friends between classes, not during class. Ask questions if any lessons are unclear. The teacher needs to know what points are not getting across to the students. Make the effort to be on time, with the materials you need for that class.

Develop a homework routine-Set aside a specific place and time for doing your homework each day. Go over your homework for the day so you know how much you have to accomplish. Try to do the tougher assignments first while your brain is still fresh.

Get involved ... but not too involved-school is full of other opportunities to get involved, with everything from sports to student council to yearbook committees to peer counseling. Take advantage of these opportunities and find something you like to do. Be careful, though, not to get so involved that you don't have time for your schoolwork.

Make new friends-Make the effort to expand your circle of friends. Strike up a conversation with the new kid in your class, or get acquainted with someone you've been in classes with for years, but never really talked to. Getting to know new people should be a lifelong task.

If you stumble, try again-Like most resolutions, there will be times when you feel you've blown it. Don't give up. Keep this list handy, and start again.

Top 10 study tips guide picks

THERE are also as many different ways to study as there are different people. The trick is to find the study tips that work best for you. The following list contain tips that have worked best for the greatest number of people. Some of them may work for you, some of them won't. Try them all and work out your own study plan.

1. Study in the same place-Find a quiet place, away from distractions, with ample room to work. Once you've found it, study at the same place every time. It could be a desk in your bedroom, the kitchen table, or the local library. Laying down on your bed or sprawled across the living room rug are generally not good study places.

2. Study at the same time-Figure out what time of day you can concentrate best, and what works into your schedule. Use that time every day to study. Try to make sure it is not too late in the evening.

3. Use a homework box-Keep all your homework supplies in one place, ready to be used. Keep them organized, and you won't need to waste your time searching for supplies.

4. Cut out all distractions-You need to be able to concentrate on your homework and nothing else. The TV should be off, other people's conversations should be in another room, music should be turned down, and phone calls should be taken after you've finished studying. Any other thoughts in your mind should also be set aside for a later time.

5. Do the hard stuff first-If you are dreading a particular assignment, or know it requires a lot of extra effort, do it first. Your brain will be fresh. Besides, you won't have to dwell on it while you are working on other homework.

6. Schedule long-term projects-Larger projects need to be broken into smaller components to make them manageable. For example, these components could be such things as gathering notes, writing a rough draft, making corrections or additions, writing a bibliography, and completing the final copy. Set yourself a deadline for completing each component and make sure you stick to it.

7. Review regularly-Homework is not just that which is assigned every night. A regular review of your notes should be a part of your homework plan. This takes just a few minutes each day, but will pay off considerably when it comes to test time.

8. Write up a contract-Sit down with your parents and write up a homework contract at the beginning of each term. This sets out in writing what is expected of each of you and gives all of you input into your homework plan.

9. Schedule each homework session-When you sit down to do your homework, make up a quick schedule as to how you are going to use your time. Break it up into blocks of time that you will spend on each task.

10. Avoid doing a marathon-If you've followed the previous tips, this last one should never happen. However, you need to know that marathon study sessions are the least productive way to study.

Students rave for Sterling

EVERY student is excited about the opening of classes; excited about the new things they will learn, new friends they will meet and new school gadgets they will be sporting. Now they even have a greater reason to get excited for Sterling is making the school opening much more thrilling by giving away hundreds of fantastic prizes with its "Sterling and Avanti Drive Your Way to School" raffle promo.

Two lucky grand prize winners will be going to school aboard a brand new Isuzu Hi-Lander Crosswind. 20 students will do their homeworks on Intel Celeron Computers, another 20 will be going home with P20,000 in cold cash and 20 more will be sporting a new Nokia 3530. Also, 100 assorted Sterling products gift packs and 250 Olympia Calculators are being given away.

A minimum of P300 worth of single-transaction purchase of Sterling and/or Avanti notebooks, binders, refills entitles one to join the raffle. Simply fill out the promo raffle coupon with required information and signature then drop the entry in designated drop boxes or mail the raffle stub to: "Sterling and Avanti Notebooks Drive Your Way to School" care of Sterling Paper Products Enterprises, Inc., 111 Lapu-lapu Street, Kalookan City.

Promo period is ongoing until July 31. Sterling and Avanti Notebooks are available at all leading bookstores, department stores and stationery stores nationwide.

Buy Sterling and Avanti Notebooks and get a chance to win fantastic prizes!

How to Join:

1. A minimum Php 300.00 worth of single-transaction purchase of Sterling and/or Avanti notebooks / binders / refills entitles you to join the raffle.
2. To join, simply fill out the Raffle Coupon with required information and affix signature.
3. Drop your entries in designated drop boxes at your suki store nationwide or mail your raffle stub to:
   "Sterling and Avanti Notebooks' Drive Your Way to School"
   Sterling Paper Products Ent, Inc.
   111 Lapu-lapu St., Kalookan City 1400

Prizes:

4. Prizes are the following:

Prizes :	Raffle Winner	Suki Store
Grand Prize	One Isuzu HI-LANDER CROSSWIND XT	One Isuzu HI-LANDER CROSSWIND XT
2nd Prize	20 Winners of 1 Intel Celeron Computer Unit w/ Printer	
3rd Prize	20 Winners of P20,000 cash	
4th Prize	20 Winners of Nokia 3530	
5th Prize	100 Winners of Sterling Gift packs worth P1000 each	
Consolation Prize	250 Winners of Olympia calculators	

5. Only entries received until August 15, 2003 will be included in the raffle which will be held on August 28, 2003 at 10:00 am at Sterling Place, 2302 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.
6. Promo good for all Sterling and Avanti notebook retailers nationwide.

Claiming of Prizes:

7. All winners will be notified via registered mail.
8. To claim the prizes, winner must present claim stub, any valid ID and the registered notice coming from Sterling Paper Products Ent., Inc. Winners can claim their prizes at Sterling Paper Products Ent., Inc., 111 Lapu-lapu St., Kalookan City. Gift pack and consolation prize winners can claim their prize at the store where the purchase was made.
9. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days upon receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All prizes except the 3rd prize are not convertible to cash. All prizes are non-transferable.
11. You can only win once. The prize with the higher value shall be given to the winner in case his/her name is drawn more than once.
12. Incapacitated or winners below 18 years of age must bring along their parent or guardian exercising parental authority over the winner to claim prize on his/her behalf. The parent or guardian must present a proof of relationship to the winner.
13. 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the winner.
14. In case of disputes, Sterling Paper's decision, in concurrence with DTI is deemed final. Sterling reserves the right to publish any winner's name, address and photo without further compensation to the winner.
15. Employees of Sterling Paper Group of Companies, its affiliate companies, their advertising agencies and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join this promo.

PROMO PERIOD: APRIL 15 - JULY 31, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0409 series of 2003.

LOONEY TUNES • SNOOPY • SESAME STREET • Doraemon • DRAGONBALL Z • TarePanda

Fun and healthy 'baon' for kids

Prepare your kids for a new school year with Zest-O Choc-O and Milk-O

IT'S A new school year. Your kids are a year older, a grade higher, encountering new and exciting challenges. Make sure they're ready for them by giving your kids Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O, delicious and nutritious dairy drinks that are the best baon for bright boys and girls. Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink combines the great taste of chocolate with the healthy flavor of milk, while Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk captures the rich goodness and nutrition of full cream. Both have calcium and essential vitamins and minerals that make your kids stronger, smarter and healthier. Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O are available in the convenient 200ml Steri-Pack and in the new affordable 125ml Tetrawedge pack, so you can easily fit them in bags and lunchboxes. So go loco over Choc-O and Milk-O, your kids will be glad you did!

Milk, hot or cold wherever you are: Zest-O Choc-O and Milk-O in steri-pack

Ever wished you could enjoy your milk the way you want, either hot or cold, whenever, wherever you are? Your wish is granted with Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink and Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk in Steri-Pack. The Steri-Pack is a revolutionary packaging material that makes it easy to heat and chill. Want a soothing drink of hot milk? Just pour hot water in a bowl, dip Zest-O Milk-O for a few minutes, and viola! It's done. How about a cool, refreshing chocolate drink? Put Zest-O Choc-O on ice or in the freezer, and before you know it, you have a chilled chocolate drink! With the convenient Steri-Pak packaging, it's easy to bring Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O with you wherever you are, at home, in school or on trips!

The newest way to enjoy chocolate: Zest-O Choc-O in Tetrawedge

Now there's a new way to enjoy your Zest-O Choc-O! Aside from the original 200ml Steri-Pack, you can now drink Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink in the new 125ml Tetrawedge Pack. Geared for younger kids, Zest-O Choc-O in Tetrawedge features a more affordable size and price with an easy to carry design and quick straw entry, making it perfect for school baon. Also available are Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk in 200ml Steri-Pack and now also in 125ml Tetrawedge Pack.

Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink combines the great taste of chocolate with the healthy flavor of milk, while Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk captures the rich goodness and nutrition of full cream. Both have calcium and essential vitamins and minerals that make your kids stronger, smarter and healthier.

Military still holding Ulla, last Sipadan hostage

Story on PAGE A5

Coalition of the willing offered free sex

TALK about what you can do for your country.

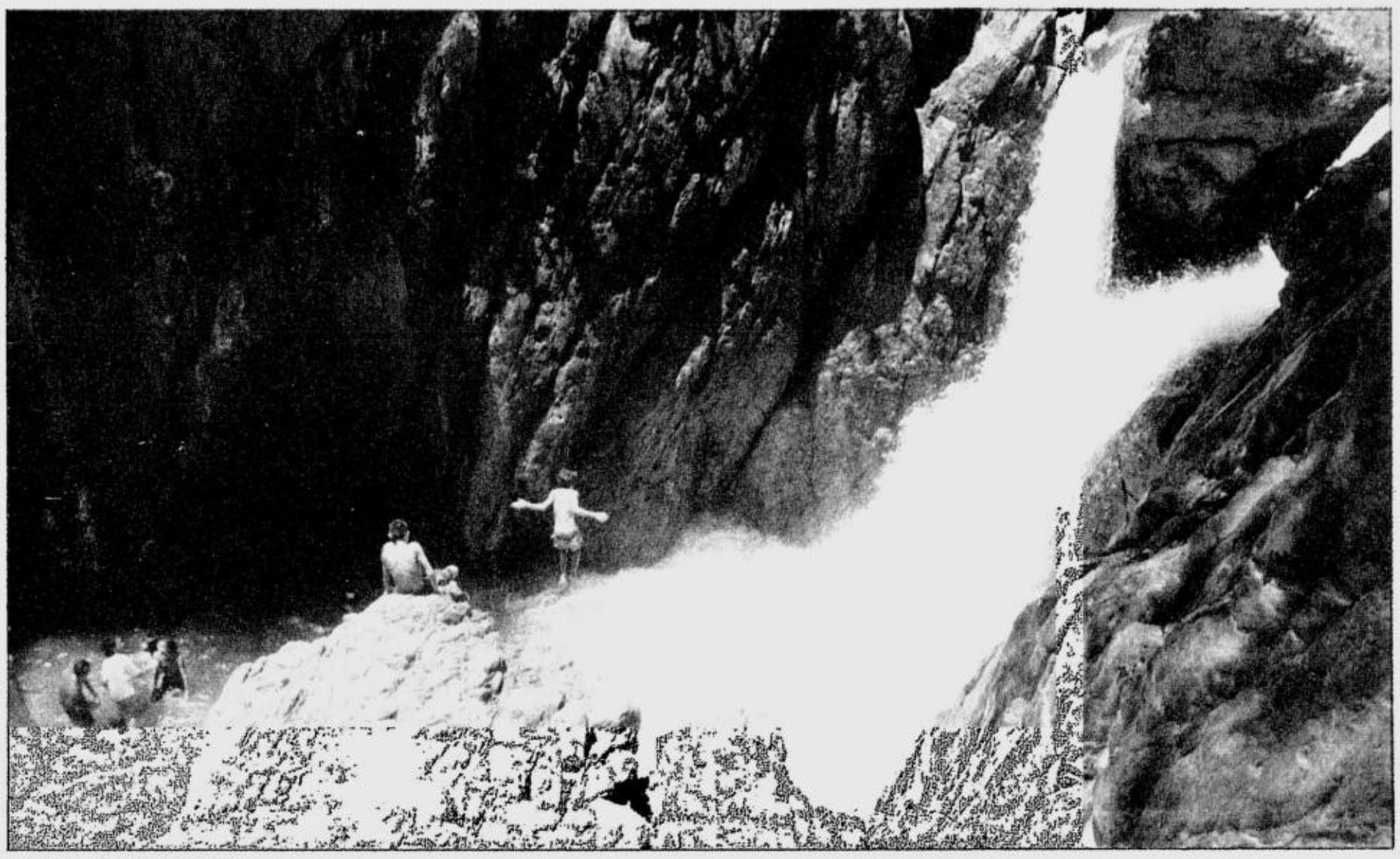
In an unusual act of "patriotism," a brothel in the free-wheeling US state of Nevada announced it was offering free sex

COALITION/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph June 8, 2003 ★★★ 112 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 180 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Sex raps hound Bacani



SUMMER'S LAST FLING
The water's fine at the Singkilao Falls in Barangay Diwan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, tourists are belatedly discovering, but the neighborhood kids have long known about and favored the rage of waters and boulders as their very own summer hideaway. ERIK ARAZAS

In a letter to faithful, bishop asks for pardon

By Armand N. Nocum

CATHOLIC Bishop Teodoro Bacani has expressed "deep sorrow for the consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection to my secretary on the 26th of March 2003."

In a letter obtained by the INQUIRER dated June 7 to "the priests and faithful" of the Novaliches diocese, Bacani said, "I want to write you about a matter that has caused others and me much pain. I have deliberately kept silent to you about this matter and its aftermath because I did not want to cause you any undue anxiety."

A source in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the 34-year-old secretary had gone to Papal Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Franco early this year to complain about Bacani. The woman had been Bacani's aide for five years in the bishopric of Caloocan City and then Novaliches, his latest posting.

The woman who filed the complaint against Bacani is single, the source said, adding that this was the first time such a complaint was made against the bishop, despite rumors in the past that he was involved in other relationships.

"I have shared with the nuncio my feelings about the whole incident and I have made clear that I wish to avoid any harm to Mother Church, whose good is greater than my own good," Bacani said in his letter.

"For my part, I have put myself in the hands of the Church, ready

SEX/ A19

'Extraordinary situation needed extraordinary solution'

By Justice Artemio V. Panganiban

Editor's Note: The following is a verbatim excerpt of Chapter 11 of the book by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Artemio V. Panganiban, "Reforming the Judiciary." Based on this chapter, deposed President Estrada has asked Congress to impeach the SC justices for colluding with Ms Macapagal to remove him from power.

This chapter was actually a speech he delivered before the religious community of the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary on Feb. 19, 2002, which had asked him to talk on the SC's role in Edsa II.

...LET me now briefly recall the events of January 16-20, 2001. As all of us know Edsa 2 was sparked by the 11-10 vote of the Senate Impeachment Court, which had refused to open the so-called second envelope that was supposed to contain damning evidence linking then President Joseph Ejercito Estrada to the multimillion "Jose Velarde" deposit in Equitable-PCI Bank.

The massive, chanting, demanding throng at the Edsa Shrine shook the rafters of the government. In no time, Cabinet members and other high government officials resigned and joined the call for President Estrada's resignation. Many religious leaders of all denominations; as well as civic, business and professional groups and non-government organizations—the so-called "civil society"—repeatedly chorused: "Erap, resign." Media—print, radio and TV—were united in asking him to step down.

On the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, all the heads of the major commands of the Armed

EXTRAORDINARY/ A19

Electricity lights up Apayao's remotest site

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CONNER, Apayao—There's nothing unusual about three children sharing a book to read at night. But only a year ago, it was not possible for the children in this town's remotest subvillage of Buneg in Barangay Nabuangan to read anything after sunset. Or for a grandfather like Andanan Agagen, 71, to weave rattan strips into a basket.

A 7.5-kW micro-power facility in operation since last September has lighted up the lives of the 36 families in this village peopled by the Mabaka tribe.

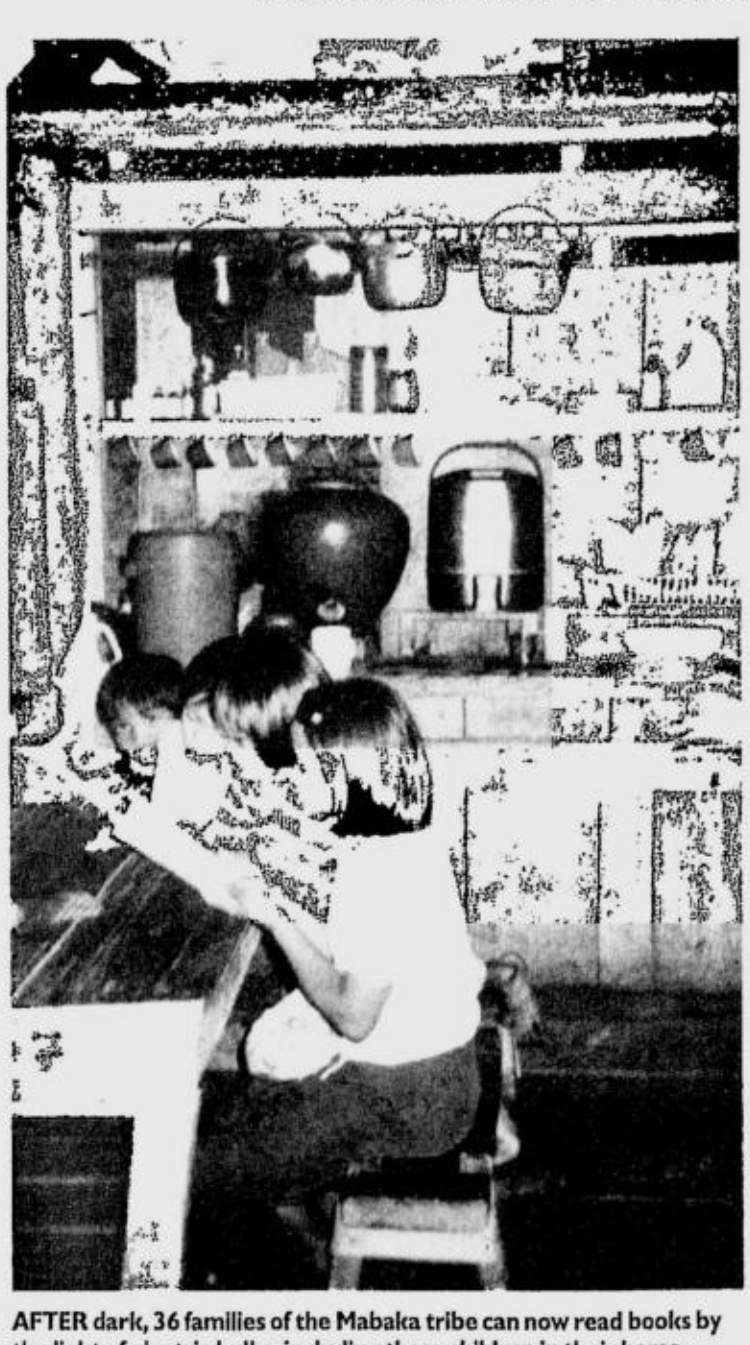
"My younger siblings now are so lucky they can read books and do their homework under bright fluorescent lamps," said Wilma Balnao, a third year college student at the Apayao State College in the town proper. "When I was in the elementary grades, I could not concentrate doing my homework under a dim kerosene lamp."

Balnao, now 19, used to study at the primary school in her home village of Buneg, a seven to eight-hour uphill climb from the highway in Barangay Malama.

Rosalina Dangli, Buneg's lone public school teacher, said the electric facility indeed has helped improve the performance of her more than 30 pupils from Grades 1 to 4.

"Now that we have electricity, my pupils

ELECTRICITY/ A18



AFTER dark, 36 families of the Mabaka tribe can now read books by the light of electric bulbs, including these children in their home.
MAURICE MALANES/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Amazing Gracia tells all to DOJ

By Philip C. Tubeza *in Manila*
and Rolly A. San Juan *in Zamboanga City*

FORMER Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham has reportedly given the Department of Justice more information than was written in her controversial book, "In the Presence of My Enemies."

The American missionary was interviewed at her home in Kansas on May 28 by Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez. "It was very fruitful," Gutierrez said yesterday of the interview. "There were things that she said that were not in the book. Not all [of her stories] were printed. She had other stories that she told me."

The questions Gutierrez put to Gracia involved, among others, the identity of the general who demanded a cut of the ransom for the hostages' release; the witnesses, if any, to President Macapagal's supposed conversation by satellite phone with Abu Sabaya, Abu

AMAZING/ A7

Woman with 'green heart' braves MMDA's chopping axe

By Volt Contreras

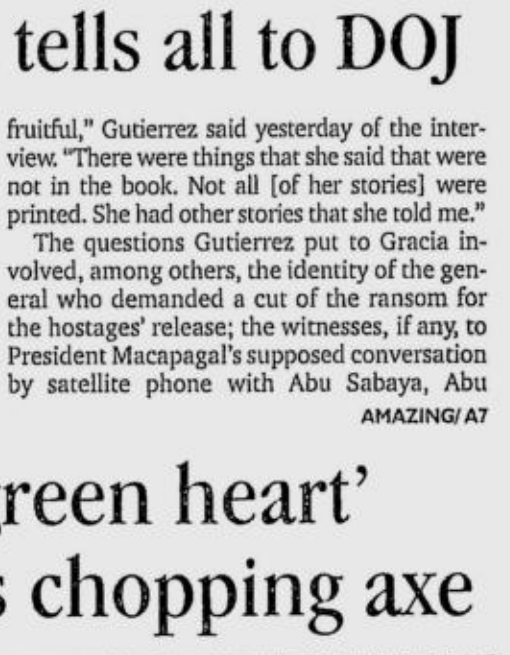
A WOMAN with a "green heart" is standing in the way of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando's cutting crew.

A la the poet Joyce Kilmer, Annie Lou Cruz, defender of the greenery on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, wrote a poem to best remember the events of Oct. 17, 2001. That was when she and other concerned residents, school officials, shop owners, bank managers and other "stakeholders" on the avenue got together and donated saplings, soil, manpower and snacks for gardeners to transform their stretch of road into a blooming, tree-shaded lane.

All these efforts by Cruz's Greening of Katipunan movement—which, ironically, had the full support of the MMDA during Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s watch—are now to be sacrificed in Fernando's bulldozing way, in the name of traffic decongestion.

Late last month, the MMDA started breaking up Katipunan's islands to make what used to be service roads part of a widened avenue.

WOMAN/ A18



ONLY God can make a tree, but Annie Lou Cruz makes sure it stays free from the ungodly intentions of the likes of Bayani Fernando.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with widespread rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/06/08/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

GMA reports on fruits of state visits

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reported to the nation the accomplishments of her recently concluded visits to South Korea and Japan.

Ms Macapagal, in a message aired over the radio, said her state visit to South Korea produced about $500 million worth of investments and aid, including a $150 million 100-megawatt power plant to be built by Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) in Antique.

She said the power plant will be operational before the end of the year and will ease the power shortage in the Visayas.

Ms Macapagal arrived on Friday night from Tokyo, where she proceeded after her visit to Seoul.

The President said the South Korean multinational firm Daewoo will invest $50 million in the South Rail System going to Muntinlupa.

The South Korean government will give $10 million to the Information Technology Training Center in Luzon and to the Vocational Training Center in Davao City, and another $100,000 in bilateral aid.

Ms Macapagal said she urged South Korea to pass the Work Permit Law that would legalize the stay of about 18,000 undocumented Filipino workers there.

She also called for the disarming of North Korea's nuclear weapons to defuse a potential flashpoint in the region.

Japan aid

Japan, meanwhile, will give the Philippines various equipment and technical aid. These include patrol boats, an automated fingerprint identification system for the Philippine National Police, and equipment for the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, the government's SARS center.

Ms Macapagal said the Japanese government will extend technical assistance to Mindanao fruit exporters, toward reforms in the power sector, and for manpower training in information technology.

The Japanese government will also extend aid to evacuees in Mindanao.

In a separate statement, Ms Macapagal stressed the Philippines' emerging role as a major player in regional politics.

"We must now learn to immerse ourselves in the regional and global consciousness. There are pressing items in the agenda for a stronger Asia and a better world," she said.

She called for closer economic cooperation in Asia, regional self-reliance in political and economic security, a common campaign against terrorism and poverty, and deeper cultural ties.

She said many threats faced by countries in the region, such as drugs and arms trafficking, the spread of new diseases and global warming, are "global in scope and must be managed collectively."

Ople accepts N Korea invite

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople will accept a standing invitation to visit North Korea to discuss security issues in the region, particularly the communist country's nuclear program.

"I intend to take up this invitation and hold discussions on how best to bring peace and stability to the Korean peninsula," Ople said.

He said the invitation was extended by North Korean Foreign Minister Park Nam Sun during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last February.

Ople said the Philippines is interested in a "peaceful, stable and non-nuclear" Korean Peninsula.

He noted that there are some 40,000 Filipinos in South Korea who would be affected if tensions rose in the region.

"The President has committed our foreign policy toward the achievement of a stable Korean Peninsula. I intend to use dialogue and diplomacy . . . and encourage peaceful dialogue," Ople said.

For tensions to subside, he said there should be "less static in the communication links" between North Korea and the United States, which has criticized North Korea's nuclear program.

"There has been too much rhetoric going back and forth. There is a need to highlight the interest of other stakeholders. These are the matters that I hope to discuss when I visit," Ople said.

The Philippines is also planning to sponsor a resolution in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations calling for a nuclear-free North Korea, he said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

RUSSIA
(300th Anniversary St. Petersburg) + Turkey + Scandinavia July 15
ALL RESORTS, HOTELS, PLANES SUPER DISCOUNTS
PARADA NG LECHON Fantastic! Laughable! (Best Itinerary)
U.S. $ 1, 685 L.A., San Francisco Grand Canyon + Las Vegas
South America $ 3,158
Bangkok $ 255
Bali $ 299
Seoul $ 636
GROUP EXCURSIONS Our Specialty
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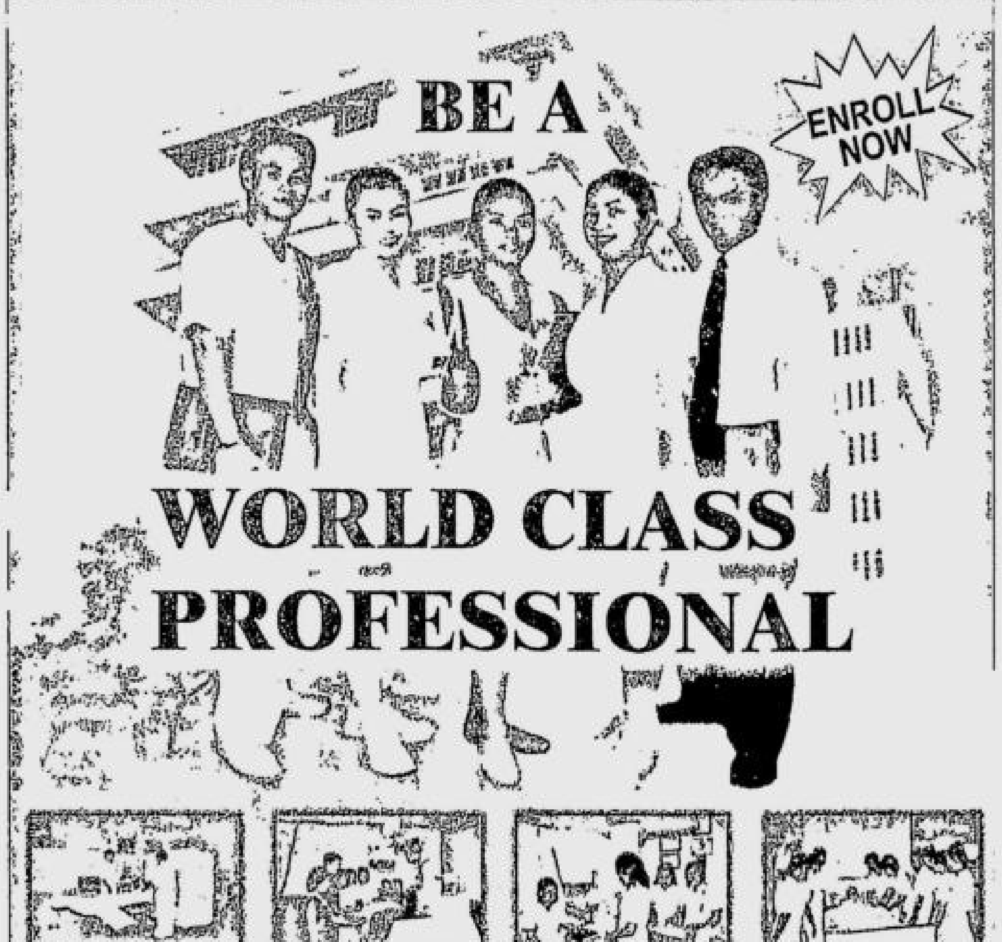

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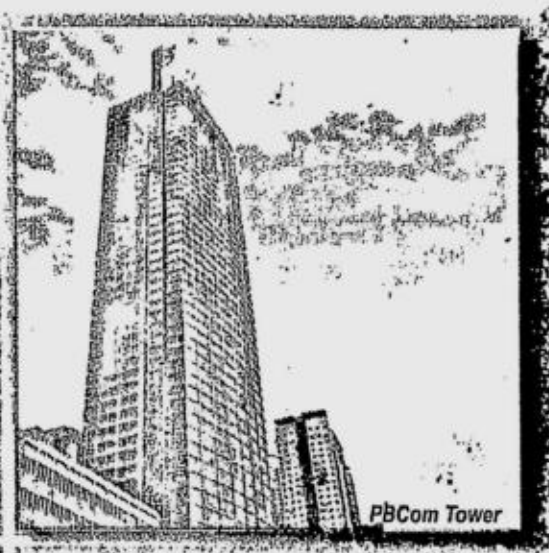
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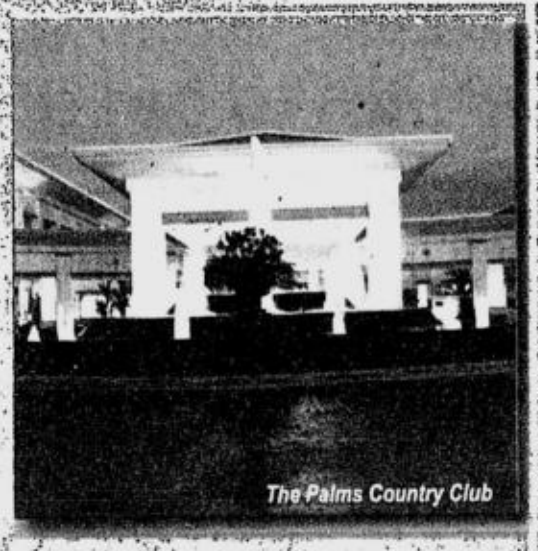
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Absent Danding leaves party guessing on eve of birthday

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Members of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) are being called to a meeting in New Manila, Quezon City on June 10, the birthday of NPC founder Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, to discuss "important matters."

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon said yesterday the meeting, to be held at Cojuangco's clubhouse at his New Manila home, was called by NPC president Frisco San Juan and has fueled talk Cojuangco may have decided to throw his hat into the 2004 presidential race.

It was not known, however, if a formal announcement would be made on Cojuangco's decision, according to Maranon, an NPC leader in Negros Occidental.

The governor said he could not answer the question because the notice for the meeting only said they would "discuss important matters."

Cojuangco himself will not be around for the meeting, it was learned. He left for a three-week vacation in the United States on May 28 and will not be back in time for his birthday, an aide close to him said.

The aide said he did not know if Cojuangco had left an announcement on his decision to run for president before he left. The aide said it was likely that if he decides to run, the announcement would be made later this year.

"I am sure he will not make any announcement until late this year. He has nothing to gain by making an announcement now," the aide said.

Cojuangco had said he would reveal his decision on his birthday.

The aide did not rule out the possibility the business tycoon would run, but said Cojuangco wanted to see if President Macapagal-Arroyo decides to run herself before making a final decision.

"It appears that (Cojuangco) is interested but he has to resolve several issues first," the source said.

On May 24, provincial officials trooped to Cojuangco's farm in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental to greet him an advance happy birthday and to urge him to run for president, Maranon said.

But Cojuangco had merely said, "I will let you know if I decide to run," the source said.

Other sources close to Cojuangco said the tycoon had met with his cousin, Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco, but would not say what they discussed or whether other alliances were being formed in preparation for the 2004 presidential race.

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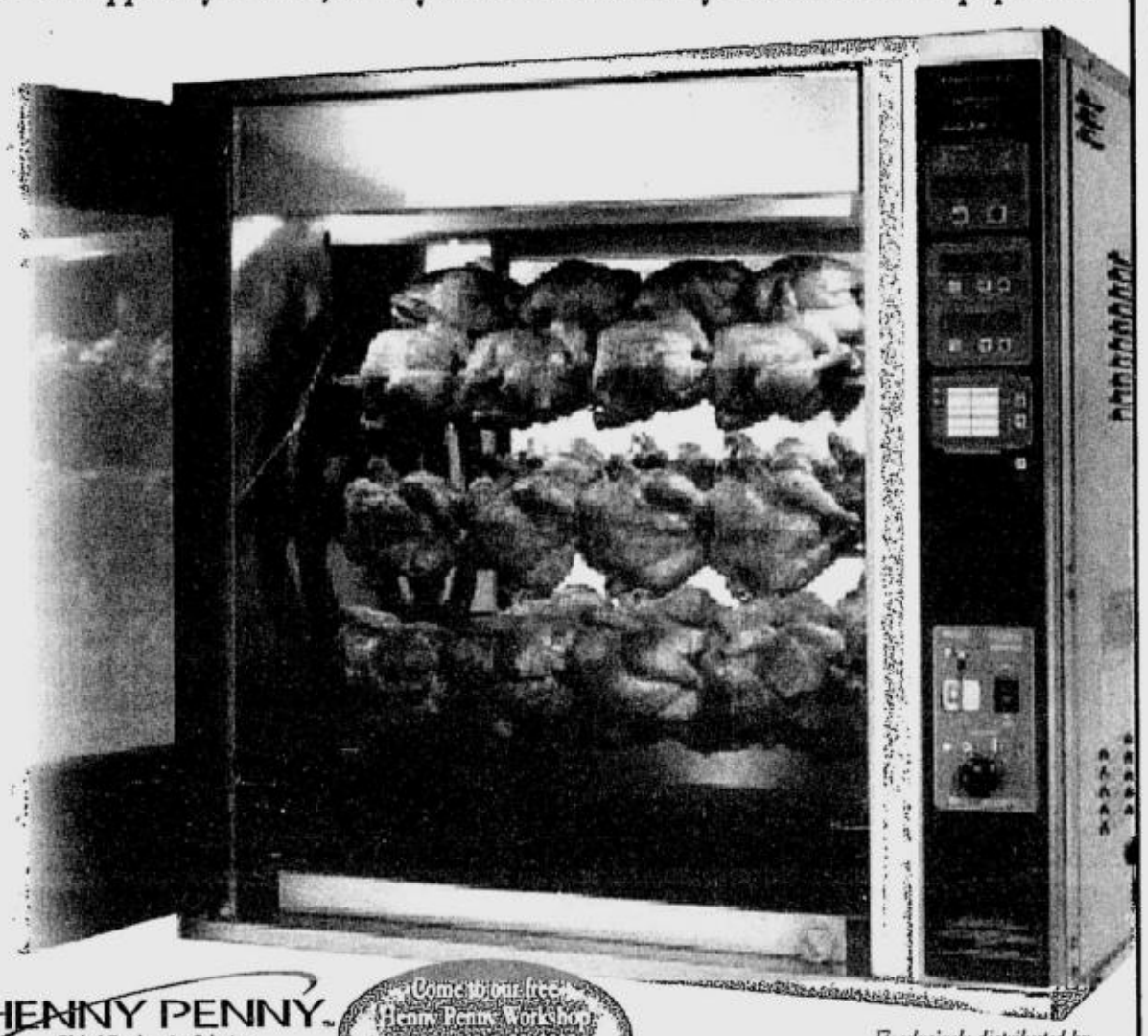

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DepEd scrambles to build 600 schools by next year

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH ONLY a year left, the Department of Education is hard put to meet one of the pledges President Macapagal-Arroyo made in her State of the Nation Address in June 2001: to build a school for every barangay.

"[It] will be accomplished," Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, who took office nine months ago, said in a recent interview.

As of July 2002, the DepEd said 555 new schools had been built. But by its own reckoning, the pledge is to build 1,612 new schools to serve all 1,612 unserved barangays by 2004.

De Jesus said the next batch of 600 schools was in the pipeline. That still does not come close to the target.

According to De Jesus, the President did not literally mean that a new school should be built for every barangay, "but [only] for [barangays in] the remote areas."

This is why the Armed Forces has to build some of the schools, he said.

Of the 555 schools constructed from July 2001 to July 2002, the Department of Public Works and Highways built 280; the AFP Engineering Brigade, 220; the DepEd, 47, and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 8.

De Jesus said the DPWH was tied up by legal requirements.

It needs to see that the school site has been titled to the DepEd before it could start construction.

De Jesus said Ms Macapagal suggested a compromise wherein the DPWH would go ahead with the construction of "temporary" schools for Grades 1 and 2.

Anyway, he said, these students would eventually move to "regular school buildings" later.

He said they were still in the process of validating the school sites.

De Jesus knows that 600 new schools are not enough. The DepEd database shows a huge deficit of 44,000 classrooms nationwide.

Budget problems

According to Shalom Magapyu and Rose Bueno of the DepEd's Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), 1,633 new classrooms were built and 4,633 dilapidated ones repaired for elementary students in the poorest provinces in the past 16 months.

They said more classrooms could have been built and repaired if not for the delay in the release of funds caused by the government's budget deficit. However, they said, the construction of 609 more new classrooms and repair of 893 others would be completed by the end of the month.

With a report from Jerome Aning

CHEd chief bares angst, goals

By Jerome Aning

"THEY JUST don't know me. I do have total compassion for college students and I want them to have a better quality of education more than anything else."

This was new Commission on Higher Education chair Bro. Rolando Dizon's reaction to allegations he saw education more as a business than anything else.

Members of militant groups like the National Union of Students of the Philippines and the League of Filipino Students had denounced Dizon's appointment to the CHEd and the commission's failure to stop the latest round of tuition hikes in the new school year.

The militants said college students "do not expect a bright future" under Dizon. As former president of De La Salle University, a private school, the students said Dizon would "naturally protect" the commercial interests of educational institutions.

In his first press conference on Thursday, Dizon told reporters that as an educator, he is "totally dedicated to carrying out the tasks of educational excellence."

"I really have compassion for students and I want to help them so that they can get through college," Dizon said.

Despite the tuition hikes, Dizon said he is committed to improving the relevance and importance of higher education in nation-building, producing globally competitive and competent graduates, and strengthening and enhancing the potential of higher educational institutions.

Dizon said CHEd could only investigate the tuition increases in private schools as far as their justification and adherence to due process was concerned.

Dizon, 59, is the fourth CHEd chief. Before his appointment, he was president of the DLSU System for four-and-a-half years, president of University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City for 12 years, and president of La Salle Greenhills for eight years.

He listed as his priorities the strengthening of the accreditation system, the promotion of faculty development, expansion of study grant and student loan programs, the matching of jobs and programs by sector and geography, and having a "holistic" approach to education in order to make graduates globally competitive.

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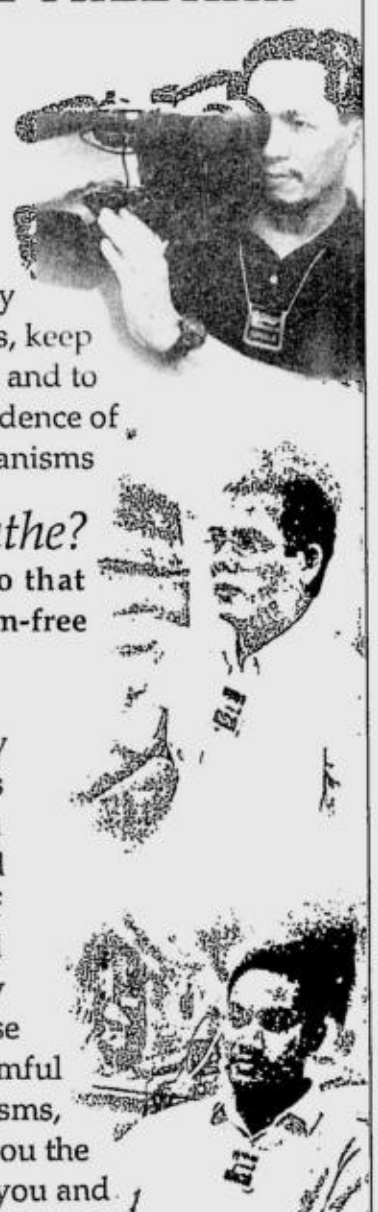

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Army still holding Ulla; wife irked

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and TJ Burgonio *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Joy Ulla is peeved.

There is no indication that the military will be releasing her husband soon, and she is losing patience.

After three years in captivity, her husband, Roland Ulla (not Ullah as earlier reported)—the last of the Abu Sayyaf's hostages from the Malaysian dive resort of Sipadan—finally escaped from the clutches of his captors in Patikul, Sulu last Wednesday.

But he is currently undergoing "tactical interrogation" at an Army brigade's headquarters in Jolo.

"I'm peeved already. When will the military allow him to join us? I want him to see our situation, he is our only hope for survival," Joy said in Filipino.

Joy, 47, said she could not help but suspect that Roland, 54, was being held by the military against his will.

"Instead of holding him in the military's headquarters, they would do a great service if they would bring Roland to a hospital," she told the INQUIRER.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade based in Jolo, Sulu where Roland is being held, said Roland has to rest "maybe for two or three days to allow him to adjust better" before he could be sent home.

Aleo said Roland would be asked to provide some information about the Abu Sayyaf, although "we will not force him" to do so.

"If he volunteers to give information, that's good, but if not, we will not force him," Aleo said.

Hostage or bandit?

But in Manila, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Roland was being interrogated to determine, among other things, if he had indeed been a hostage of the bandit group.

"The military is extracting information which can be of operational use. Part of the interrogation would be to determine if he was a hostage or (if he) cooperated with the Abu Sayyaf," Reyes said during a brief telephone interview.

"He's being treated as a released hostage," Reyes said, but added that "appropriate charges" would be filed against Ulla if it was found that he colluded with his captors.

The escape

Ulla escaped from the Abu Sayyaf following a gunbattle between the Marines and the bandit group in Patikul. A Marine was killed while 11 others were wounded in the clash.

Patikul Vice Mayor Ismon Suhuri told The Associated Press that soldiers came to get Ulla from a "safe place" on Friday.

He said Ulla, who had lost weight and grown a beard, reported that the military operation broke up the Abu Sayyaf group holding him, giving him the opportunity to escape.

During a press forum in Quezon City earlier yesterday, Reyes said the military was treating Ulla "more as a hostage than as an enemy."

"We are giving him the benefit of the doubt," Reyes said.

But in an interview over dzRH, Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southern Command chief, said Ulla would be asked why he preferred to remain with the Abu Sayyaf rather than escape when

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 8, 2003
Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky came a sound like a strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared tongues as if of fire which parted and came to rest upon each one of them. All were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Staying in Jerusalem were religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, all excited because each heard them speaking in his own language. Full of amazement and wonder, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and foreigners who accept Jewish beliefs, Cretians and Arabians; and all of us hear them proclaiming in our own language what God, the Savior, does."

2nd Reading: Gal 5:16-25

Walk according to the Spirit and do not give way to the desires of the flesh! For the desires of the flesh war against the spirit, and the desires of the spirit are opposed to the flesh. Both are in conflict with each other, so that you cannot do everything you would like. But let the Spirit lead you: this has nothing to do with submitting to the Law.

You know what comes from the flesh: immorality, impurity and shamelessness, idol worship and magic, hatred, jealousy and violence, anger, ambition, division, factions, and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I again say to you what I have already said: those who do these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is charity, joy and peace, patience, understanding of others, kindness and fidelity, gentleness and self-control. For such things there is no Law or punishment. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its vices and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us live in a spiritual way

Gospel: Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "From the Father, I will send you the Spirit of truth. When this Helper has come from the Father, he will be my witness, and you, too, will be my witnesses for you have been with me from the beginning.

"I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into the whole truth.

"He has nothing to say of himself but he will speak of what he hears, and he will tell you of the things to come. He will take what is mine and make it known to you; in doing this, he will glorify me. All that the Father has is mine; because of this I have just told you, that the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you."

Commentary

Jesus revealed to us who we are, what we are worth, what our ultimate goal is. He showed us by his life and word how to relate to the Father, to one another, and to the rest of creation. Understanding his revelation is not an easy task. Putting into action what we understand is even more difficult. But we are not left alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to assist our feeble minds, our troubled hearts, and embattled spirits. The Holy Spirit is a Person we have to welcome and listen to. Heeding his voice as individuals and as a community, we shall discern the truth in the din of voices that compete unabashedly for our attention. If we allow ourselves to be guided by him, we shall become what we already are because of him: the Body of Christ.

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'Parisian Life' to be exhibited in artist Juan Luna's hometown

LAOAG CITY—Juan Luna's "Parisian Life," the painting that stirred a controversy with the manner of its acquisition last year, will be put on display at the Museo Ilocos Norte here in a week-long "homecoming exhibit."

The painting will be flown in on Monday from the Government Service and Insurance System laboratory in Pasay City, where it was stored for a month following a tour of Cebu and Iloilo.

Public viewing will be from June 10 to 16 and will include daily lectures by Eric Zerrudo, GSIS museum curator.

The 110-year-old 44-inch by 39-inch painting depicts Luna, Dr. Jose Rizal and Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin in a huddle in a Paris café at the turn of the century, just before the Philippines revolted against Spain. In the foreground of the painting is a young Parisian woman.

Exception

"They (GSIS officials) didn't plan to bring it out within Luzon because you could always go to Manila to look at it. But they made an exception in this case because Ilocos Norte is Luna's home province," said Al Valenciano, Museo's artistic director.

Juan Luna was born in Badoc town, 37 kilometers from this city. The family's ancestral home has been converted into a museum.

Bought by the GSIS at an auction at Christie's in Hong Kong for P46 million, the painting's acquisition caused a stir because of its steep price. Some art experts had said it wasn't worth much more than its P8 million minimum bid price.

Reproduction

To publicize its arrival, a reproduction of the painting will be mounted on a float and paraded around all 22 towns of Ilocos Norte, with a special stop at the Luna Shrine in Badoc town.

"You will find out why it is valuable. There is a part in the lecture where a transparency of the Philippine map is placed on the female figure and it fits," said Valenciano. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

S. Galang; 68

SEVERA Galang, mother of INQUIRER researcher Chona Galang, died on June 6 after suffering cardiac arrest. She was 68.

She is survived by her husband Leonardo; children Myrna, Armando, Charo Medalla, Carmelite Sister Mary Cynthia, Angelito, Gil, Rowena Galicia and Chona; children-in-law Angela, Elvie, Edward Medalla and Bong Galicia, and grandchildren Jerome Galicia, Jayjay Medalla, Angelica and Diane.

Her body lies at the family residence at 51-5 P. Alcantara St., San Pablo City, Laguna.

Interment will be on the morning of June 13 at the San Pablo Cemetery after the mass at the San Pablo Cathedral.

Amazing Gracia tells all to DOJ

From page A1

Sayyaf spokesperson, and the language or dialect Sabaya used on the phone.

Gutierrez said she came with "a list of questions" that Gracia all answered under oath, in the presence of a notary public of Kansas, a US district attorney from Washington and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"We had follow-up questions to her answers, and these were not in the book," Gutierrez said. But she refused to disclose the new details that came out in the interview, saying that the DOJ was still evaluating them.

She said the DOJ was expected to come up with a report on the interview with Gracia in a month's time.

Among the controversial information contained in Gracia's best-selling book was that concerning the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf, which the Armed Forces has heatedly denied.

Remembrance ceremony

Gracia and her husband Martin were among a group abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from the Palawan resort Dos Palmas in May 2001. The Burnhams, along with Filipino nurse Edibora Yap, who was abducted days later in Lamitan, Basilan, spent more than a year in captivity.

Martin Burnham and Yap were killed in a surprise military rescue attempt in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, a year ago yesterday.

The two were honored yesterday morning with a "remembrance ceremony" at the Camp Navarro Chapel in Calarian, Zamboanga City, which was organized by the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines and the AFP Southern Command.

The ceremony was attended by Yap's brother, David Pamaran, and youngest son Von-Von, American and Filipino officers and soldiers, Zamboanga Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat and other city officials.

"That June 7 was the end of the Burnhams' and my sister's suffering. They are already in the hands of God," Agence France Presse quoted Pamaran, Yap's brother, as saying. "The fight is not yet over because the terrorists are still around. Though we offer love, there are people who remain incorrigible."

Said Col. Alan Walker, task force commander: "The story is not finished and our combined military forces are still fighting to eliminate those that caused Martin and Edibora's suffering.

"Their suffering is over, they have returned to the side of the Lord, and it is altogether fitting that we meet in this peaceful setting to remember them and reflect upon the joy and healing they brought to so many.

"Edibora was a healer of the body and Martin was a healer of the soul," Walker said.

Gutierrez said she met with Gracia in Rosehill, Kansas, on May 28, the Burnhams' wedding anniversary.

She said that a day earlier, she was able to visit the cemetery where Martin is buried.

"I was warmly welcomed and received by the family, including Martin's parents," Gutierrez said.

She said the interview took almost three hours, after which "the family prepared a good meal for everyone."

"We told them that there was so much food," she said. "They said that people in the Philippines, even if they are poor, always saw to it that there was lots of food on the table when there were visitors."

Gutierrez said Gracia treated her as a guest "rather than a person who would ask her questions." She said Gracia spoke of wanting to return to the Philippines and expressed the willingness to testify regarding the information contained in her book.

"I don't know if she's coming back to simply visit or do missionary work," Gutierrez said.

The justice official said among the questions asked of Gracia were:

- "You stated in your book that at one point, you heard Abu Sabaya talk to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo using a satellite phone. How close were you to Abu Sabaya during the exchange?"
- "Do you believe that it was President Arroyo who was at the other end of the line?"

Gracia was also asked if she talked to the soldiers who allegedly supplied food to the Abu Sayyaf, if they were in military uniform, if she noticed their service or unit badges or their ranks, and how they were able to get to the bandits' camp.

Gracia was also asked about the exact identity of a "Ma'am Blanco," if she believed Sabaya's allegation that the military was supplying arms to the bandits.

- "Did Abu Sabaya tell you the identity of the general who wanted a 20-percent to 50-percent cut in the ransom?"
- "You stated in your book that news reporter Arlyn dela Cruz told you about the general who wanted a cut in the ransom. Did she tell you who this general is?"

In his remarks at the remembrance ceremony, Walker recalled the wounded Gracia's "amazing strength."

He said that on the day of the rescue operation, he visited the Camp Navarro hospital and reviewed the preparations for the treatment of casualties and for the reception of the Burnhams.

"We visited the room where they intended Martin and Gracia to be staying, and I remember directing the staff to get something for Gracia to wear that was a little more stylish than the hospital scrubs that they had neatly folded on her bed awaiting her arrival," he said, adding:

"Little did we know that there was a fire fight near Sirawai at about this very same time of day and within a few hours Gracia would be on board an AFP helicopter now under the protection of our joint forces.

"Gracia arrived at the helicopter-landing zone only a few hundred meters away from here. She was in pain from her gunshot wound in her thigh, she knew that her husband was dead, yet showed amazing strength and inspired us all."

Walker said he was honored that Gracia had sent him a copy of "In the Presence of My Enemies," which he described as having "something for everyone."

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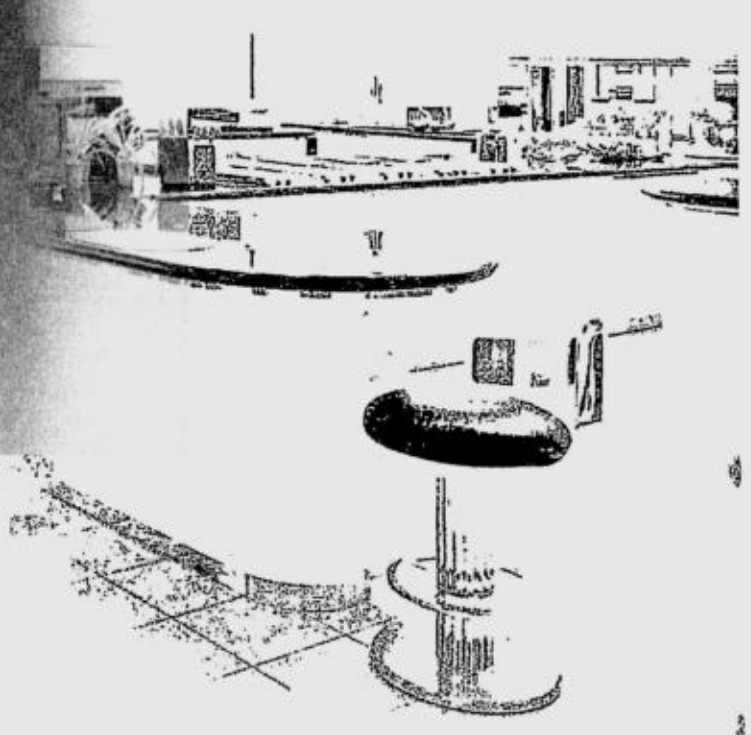

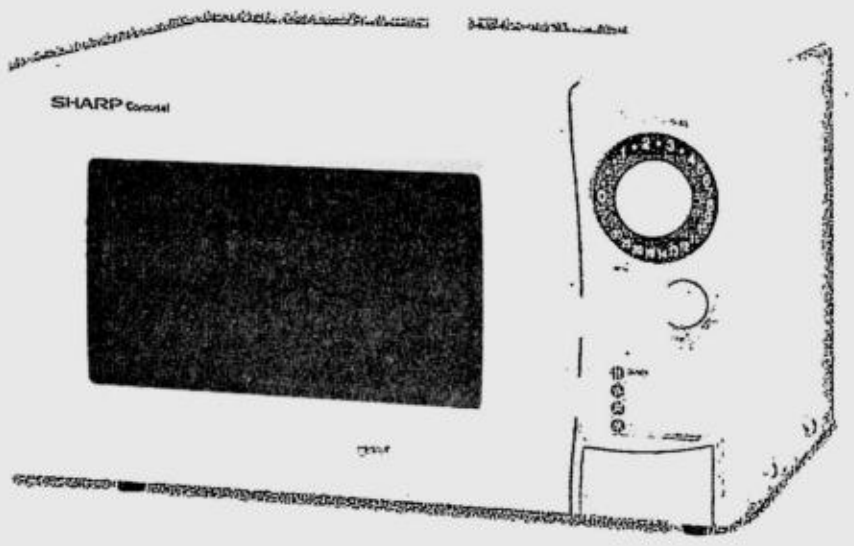

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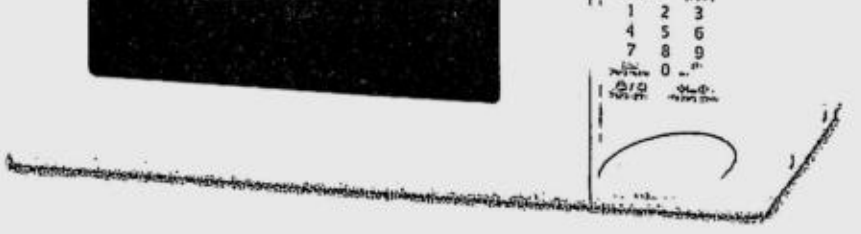

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Political gimmick

EDITORIAL

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada is not exactly famous for his self-restraint or sense of discipline. Two days after he filed an impeachment case against eight Supreme Court justices, through his on-again, off-again counsel Rene Saguisag, the former movie actor indulged his sense of drama by issuing a direct appeal to the people to reinstate him in Malacañang.

The pathetic gesture, complete with letterhead bearing the presidential seal, betrayed the true motive behind his most recent legal maneuvers. He had hired a new lawyer, argued yet again that the courts had no jurisdiction over him, filed impeachment charges in the House of Representatives through the help of three allied congressmen. But the direct appeal gave the game away: His strategy for surviving the plunder trial he is facing is not legal, but ultimately political.

An opposition leader whom some in the Estrada camp still view with suspicion, because of his role in the contentious Senate vote of Jan. 16, 2001, summarized public unease over Estrada's latest dramatic act: "It would look like it was meant to be a political gimmick if there really is a call for people power," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. An outbreak of people power "would cause further unrest," he added.

Another opposition senator, John Osmeña, read the appeal as a formula for "chaos." Said the man who himself figured in the Estrada impeachment scandal for receiving a P1-million gratuity from the country's most successful mahjong-playing president: "There's no need to call for people power. Let's put a stop to this."

It is unlikely, however, that Estrada will listen. Not because of the legal fantasies his lawyers have concocted, but precisely because Estrada is nothing but a pragmatist. This is the one part of his public persona that coincides with his private personality. He is a practical man, because he is a graduate of the toughest university there is: the school of hard knocks. He will use smooth lawyers like Saguisag and Alan Paguia for all they are worth, but will think nothing of undermining their legal maneuverings by calling on the people to overhaul the legal system itself.

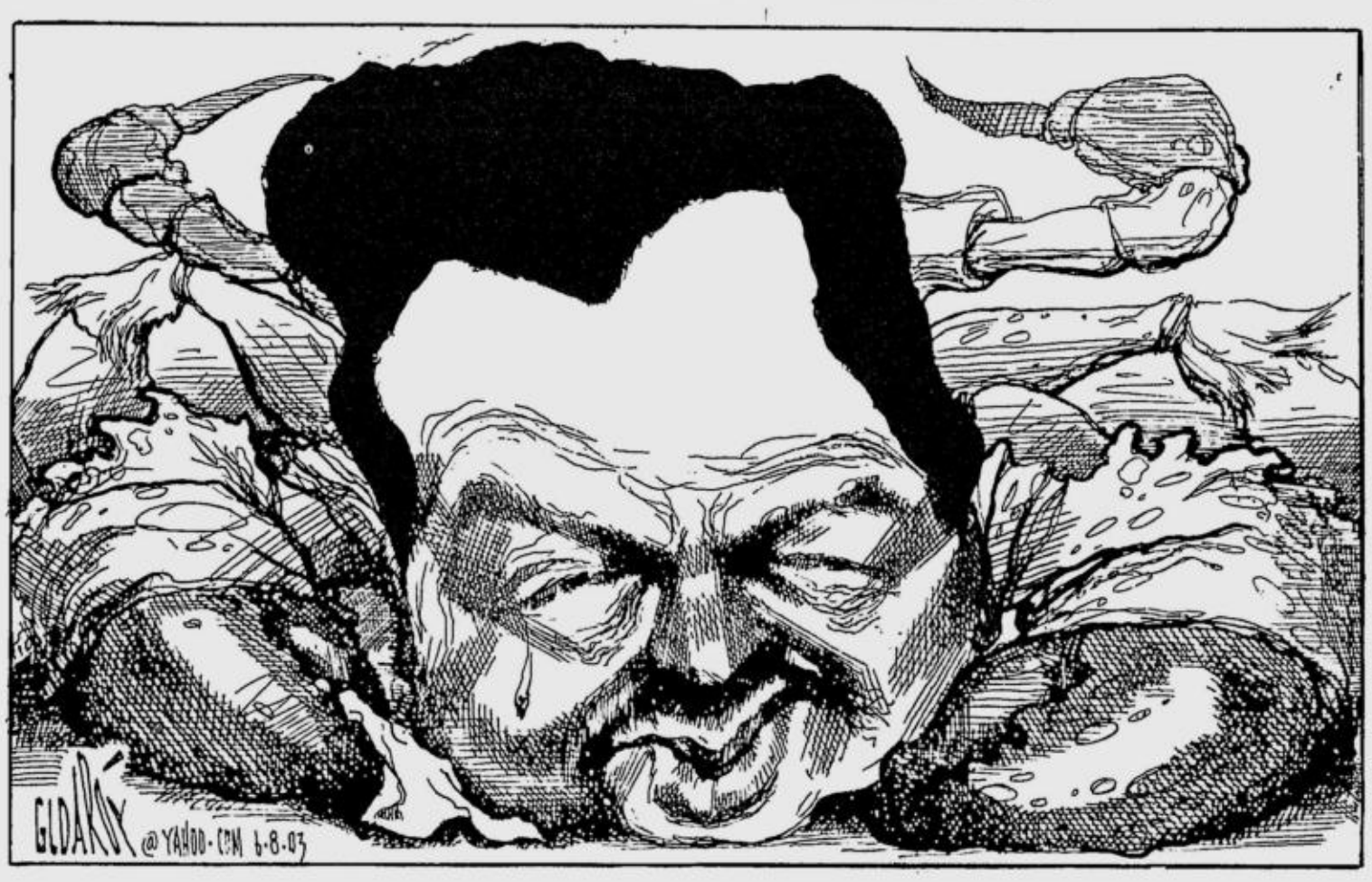
"I do not expect to get justice from the Supreme Court or from any court in this country," he said in his appeal last Wednesday. This is no longer news to us, because his firing of nine high-profile private lawyers early last year already told us as much. What is new is the blatant and ultimately misguided appeal to the "people" to bring him back to the same palace he had fled. "It is now up to you, the Filipino people, to be the judge and give me justice. True justice is all in your hands because power resides in you."

He said the Supreme Court colluded with certain powerful groups to remove him from office. "They did it on the prodding of the rich, vested interests, the controlled media, some generals and the Prince of the Church who loves to meddle in politics." Then the clincher: "When I was forcibly and illegally removed as your President, I was not the only victim. They also stole it from you, the Filipino people who put me in office in a clean election."

In all this rather overwrought outpouring, Estrada issues exactly one statement of fact: Because we are a republican democracy, power resides in the people. Unfortunately for Estrada, the people in a modern-day republican democracy speak their mind not only through regular elections, but also through public assemblies, through their various representatives, through scientific surveys.

None of the groups Estrada mentioned was by itself responsible for his ouster. It was the million people gathered every night at the Edsa Shrine, representing the conscience of an outraged nation, that in fact unseated him. Just how representative was it? A Social Weather Stations survey conducted in Metro Manila in January 2001 found that 70 percent of the people believed that Edsa II reflected the sentiment of the majority. Given that the National Capital Region is a traditional pacesetter for political opinion across the country, it is reasonable to assume that the rest of the country would have eventually thought the same way too.

But there is no need to depend on surveys or extrapolate from them. The high voter turnout and pro-incumbent results of the May 2001 elections provided clear proof that the electorate—the same people Estrada is now appealing to—had already accepted the change in administration.



Impeaching the Court

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PURPOSE of Joseph Estrada in questioning the impartiality of the Supreme Court for holding that he had resigned as President of the Philippines and was validly replaced by then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is obvious. It is to disqualify the present high court from reviewing his certain and impending conviction by the Sandiganbayan.

The current move to impeach eight of the sitting justices, including Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Justice Artemio V. Panganiban who played a significant if extra-judicial role in installing the Vice President as the new President of the Philippines, is still born. Their conviction will leave only seven justices, who do not even constitute a quorum in the 15-member Supreme Court.

If the strong and valid charges against Comelec Commissioner Luz Tancangco were shot dead by a group of congressmen belonging to that sorry group "who are none so blind as those who will not see," how much more hopeless will the move to impeach the Supreme Court justices who allegedly helped depose the discredited Erap? The resolution to impeach, which requires a one-third vote in the House of Representatives, will be resolved along strictly partisan lines dictated by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The inevitable effect of their conviction—if such impossibility happens—will be to taint President Macapagal herself with the status of a *de facto* officer. All her official acts, although valid, will be suspect, including her nomination of Vice President Teofisto Guingona and her judicial appointments. This will create a great deal of confusion in our internal affairs, no less than in our foreign relations. President George W. Bush would have royally entertained a mere pretender to the highest office in our land.

This is not to say, of course, that such conviction will unseat Ms Macapagal and restore Joseph Estrada as President of the Philippines. They will not be parties in the impeachment case, and the Senate cannot rule on their conflicting claims.

The current tempest in a teapot raised by Estrada is manifestly still another part of his design to prevent his conviction as long as possible. Shortly after the start of his trial, one of his lawyers publicly boasted that he could delay it by at least five years, and he might do just that if the Sandiganbayan should be so indulgent. For his insolent purpose, many mostly trivial motions have been filed by the defense that have indeed stalled the proceedings.

And now that the prosecution has rested and Erap's counsel will try to prove that their client is as pure as the driven snow, they have dreamed up this new but hardly credible delaying tactic. As an effort to indirectly reverse the case of Estrada v. Arroyo, which became final and executory in 2001, it is as dead as a doornail. Even a law freshman knows that.

The points raised by Erap's lawyers have been or should have been raised in the motion for reconsideration, which was denied by the high court in a lengthy resolution. Erap should know that it is now too late to ask the Supreme Court to reverse itself. If his lawyers have some arguments they had not invoked before, it does not follow that they can invoke them now. Otherwise, there would be no end to litigation, which may be resurrected every time a new idea occurs to forgetful counsel.

As a political gambit, the impeachment attempt will wither like an unwanted plant in a sunless plot. The one-third vote needed to impeach will never be mustered among congressmen looking for Malacañang support of their re-election bids next year. One-third of its 219 members is 73. Erap will probably get only a handful, and only if he's lucky. Let's not even talk of the Senate, where a two-thirds vote is needed to convict.

I hope the Sandiganbayan will proceed with the Estrada trial without allowing itself to be distracted by this latest of his obstructionist moves. The justices should be familiar by now with his none-too-clever strategy of defense by delay. The Estrada case should not enjoy the immunity by inaction that has practically been given to the many Marcos cases that have been gathering dust in the dockets of the courts.

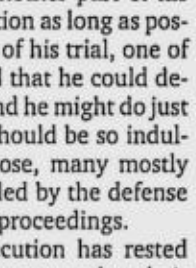
Delay in the administration of justice is as bad as corruption in the courts. Regrettably, these vices often go hand in hand. Unscrupulous litigants are able to avoid adverse decisions by persuading judges, with hard cash or gifts like *lechon* or baskets of fruits or even expensive watches, to postpone them indefinitely.

Without imputing any anomaly to the judges who have successively been assigned to try Arturo Pacificador et al. for the murder of Evelio Javier, I note with dismay that the case has been pending since 1987, and the end is not in sight.

I personally know all the justices trying the Estrada case and am certain of their integrity and competence. I am sure that whatever their decision will be on this landmark criminal case, the first ever against a former President of the Philippines, will be based on the established facts and the pertinent law and jurisprudence.

Cum-Sans Spiritu

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

USUALLY, airplane rides are quiet and uneventful, but there was one flight I had years ago which I can never forget. I was awakened by an announcement from the purser asking if there was a medical doctor on board as there was an emergency situation. Wanting to be of help in any way, I went to the back of the plane and presented myself to the purser and told him that I was a priest. He looked at me with a smile and said: "Oh no, Father. Not yet. Not yet. We'll call you if we need you!"

* * *

The Risen Lord has given the Holy Spirit to us (Jn. 20, 19-23) but the problem is that we do not receive Him in our hearts. He offers to us the Advocate, the Paraclete, the Comforter, but we do not usually avail ourselves of these necessary added powers that we need in our lives. How much do we really rely on the Spirit to lead and strengthen us? All too often, we rely on our own power, strength and wisdom. How much do we really allow the Holy Spirit to lead us? Do we welcome and invite Him into our hearts, or do we shut Him out? Let the Spirit take over, and you will discover new life, new strength, new vigor.

* * *

"Come Holy Spirit, I need you." When was the last time you uttered this prayer? Have you ever really accepted your need for Him? If you are still relying on your human power, or earthly powers, you are missing a lot. Too bad we don't tap this available and ready power. It's just there, and sad to say, for most of us, it's just there. *Sayang*.

* * *

Without the help of the Holy Spirit, I cannot possibly write this Sunday column. First of all, I do not have that much time really to sit down and write. Second, I do not have the journalistic talent nor the training. I just ask the Holy Spirit to help me and use me for whatever He wants me to say, and somehow I come out with a column every Sunday which is not outstanding from the journalistic point of view, but what gladdens my heart is when people say they are touched, and it leads them to a moment of reflection or prayer.

* * *

In all our activities or projects, let us not rely on our human power alone. How wonderfully and easily things just fall into place if we do everything Cum Spirit (with the Spirit). How difficult and toilsome things are when we act Sans Spirit (without the Spirit). With the Spirit, whatever failure or success is accepted with humility, and we end up on bended knees. Without the Spirit, failure or success is accepted with pride, and we end up with heads unbowed. What then is the difference between a life Cum Spirit and Sans Spirit? It is simply the difference between acknowledging oneself as the source or acknowledging oneself just as an instrument, and the bottom line of this is humility. God has a hard time using people who are big, or who think of themselves as big.

* * *

Someone once said that our bodies are supposed to become temples of the Holy Spirit, but many of us have built basilicas and cathedrals of our bodies. When we pay more attention to our material, physical and earthly concerns, we are bound to ease out the Spirit from our hearts. Do you have room for the Spirit in your heart? Is He in your heart at all?

* * *

Pentecost is not only an event that happened once years ago, but an ongoing event in the here and now. Have you had a personal Pentecost recently? When we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, when we come to a realization, when we are able to forgive, when we are able to inspire, when we are able to go beyond strength and limitation—all these are Pentecost moments made possible by the Holy Spirit. Yes, the spirit is with us, in us, between us, among us!

* * *

I had some kind of a Pentecost moment recently somewhere in Europe when I was approached by a Chinese woman who was interested to know more about God. I listened to her, her questions, her doubts. I tried to explain God's love for us through Jesus Christ, and that we all should love one another as brothers and sisters. She had many questions. I didn't have all the answers, but I listened. When it was time to part, she looked at me intently and said: "You know Father, your face...", she said, "You know, you look like Buddha!" Her statement really floored me. I let out a good laugh. Then she said "Yes, like Buddha, because you are kind and understanding." Two realizations: one, kindness is a language that is universally understandable; two, I'm getting fat!

* * *

Try the Spirit prayer. Say "Come Holy Spirit" and think of a person who needs healing and blessing. Do this continuously. Or pray "Come Holy Spirit" and think of a problem, a relationship, or any area of your life that needs healing. I have always found the Spirit prayer so comforting and so liberating. Try it right now. Close your eyes for a while and whisper continuously and prayerfully, "Come Holy Spirit."

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to leave a life SANS Spiritu, and to live a life CUM Spiritu. Amen.

Visiting the troops

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

WOODRIDGE, Illinois—For the last couple of years, we've enjoyed dropping in on our two grandchildren, Christine and Nicole, daughters of Miguel and Leslie Farolan both doctors engaged in group practice at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Illinois. Miggy is a pathologist while Leslie a neonatologist.

Whenever I ring them up from Manila, I would ask my son, "Could I speak to the troops?" and one by one the girls would come to the phone. Usually, it's the senior trooper, Christine, 8, who is first on the line and I remember a few years ago it wasn't easy to get her on the phone. There would be a lot of background chatter, with the father urging daughter to speak to grandpa and only after awhile would a reluctant Christine be on the line. It was usually not much of a conversation, mostly yes or no to my questions on how life was. At one instance, she asked me pointblank, "How long am I supposed to talk to you, grandpa?"

After a while, she developed a more diplomatic approach to grandpa's badgering her about so many things by saying, "You may now speak to my dad." This was the signal that our conversation was over. Now with all her extra-curricular activities like softball, ice skating, tennis and creative writing classes, we have a lot to share and there is more rapport.

The younger one, Nicole, 4, is the singer of the family. Every request for a song is met with an immediate response although the repertoire is quite limited and therefore the same tunes could be repeated over and over.

The latest edition to the family is Gisele, daughter of our youngest, Carmela, who recently finished graduate work at Northwestern University. The father is Robson Ferreira from the mountain resort of Petropolis in the state of Rio in Brazil. Gisele came in last March 26 at 5 lb 10 oz.

* * *

A few days ago, Christine gave me a copy of an essay which she wrote in her Creative Writing class. It was entitled "What I think the future will bring."

I think the future will have new and different writing tools such as pencils that write whatever you tell them to write. They would also correct all your mistakes. Here is a story about someone using such a pencil: There was once a girl who always mixed up past and present tense when writing. She had very bad grades in school because of this. Her teacher was thinking of making her repeat the 3rd grade. Her teacher gave her a test to determine if she should.

The girl found a pencil on the ground before the test. She decided to use it for her test. She was supposed to write a report. She picked up the pencil and began writing. When the girl was done, she gave her report to her teacher. "Perfect!", the teacher said. "This is perfect!" The girl found out the pencil had corrected all her mistakes! She used this pencil from then on.

I think the future will have strange looking but helpful robots that do things for you. They would clean your room which ever way you like, putting everything in the right place. Story about someone using this item: There once was a boy who was very, very lazy. He hated cleaning his room and doing his chores and everyday he tried to avoid this job, but it never worked.

One day, the boy found a piece of thick paper stuck inside a magazine in his room. It was a mail order form for a robot that could do everything. "This is perfect!", the boy yelled. "I can make this robot do everything I want." In his best handwriting, he filled out the thick form and put it in the mailbox. After a week of waiting, the boy finally got his robot. He used it for cleaning his room without his mother knowing anything.

I think the future will have telescopes that would make it seem that the stars have moved around so you can see them better, even if they really did not move. Story about someone using this item: There once was a professor who was having trouble with his work. He was trying to find out things about the Big Dipper. Unfortunately, the professor was very old fashioned. He only used old technology, old labcoats and old everything!

One night, he was reading a magazine about a new telescope which could help him in his work. He quickly ordered the new telescope and when he finally received it, he used it for new experiments on the Big Dipper. After a while, he wrote an article on his findings and.all his friends were so impressed.

In the mind of an 8-year-old, these are some of the things the future holds in store for them: a magic pencil, a cleaning robot machine, and a special kind of telescope.

* * *

Perhaps the essay highlights one of the major differences in the learning environment in the United States and the Philippines. We tend to emphasize conformity, unquestioned respect for authority while the American system promotes individualism, a questioning mind which encourages creativity leading to new discoveries. Rather than trying to get students to see things our way, we must allow them all the leeway necessary to use their imagination in the search for answers.

Having been born in the United States, my grandchildren are American citizens and in time they will contribute to the greatness of this nation. This is the land of opportunity, a fact attested to by the hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world who have come here in search of a better life. Whatever its critics may say, this is the land which has allowed the son of Jamaican immigrants to become the nation's Secretary of State, the land which has seen the rise of the grandson of Japanese plantation workers to the post of US Army Chief of Staff and the land which now has a 3-star general of Filipino ancestry commanding Field Forces in continental United States.

I have no doubts that the kids will make good in this country.

Shared experience with Myanmar

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

TROUBLE is brewing in Myanmar. Or the Burma of old that Rudyard Kipling made famous when it was still part of the former British Empire. Travel journals describe the country as a place where time has stood still.

According to news reports, Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate, was wounded in the head and shoulder when anti- and pro-military groups in that country clashed two weeks ago.

In the aftermath of that incident, Myanmar's military government, whose official title is State Peace and Development Council, placed Suu Kyi in its custody, arrested several officers of the opposition National League for Democracy party and suspended all classes in the universities.

As a backgrounder, in 1990, the opposition scored a landslide victory in elections held that year. But the military, claiming that massive fraud and irregularities marred the exercise, refused to honor the results. It put Suu Kyi under house arrest and further tightened its grip on the country. The restrictions on her movement were lifted only last year after intense diplomatic efforts.

A similar heist almost happened to us in the 1985 snap elections. Beaten by Corazon Aquino in the polls, Ferdinand Marcos used the rubber stamp Commission on Elections and Batasang Pambansa to alter the election results. He tried all tricks in the book to legitimize his "reelection." He almost succeeded. But the first people power revolution intervened, and he and his family were forced to abandon Malacañang like scared rabbits.

Experience

The Myanmar people are going through a period reminiscent of the martial law days when Marcos and his minions brutally suppressed political dissent in the country in the name of law and order. Harassment, imprisonment or, worse, "salvaging" was the fate of anybody who dared oppose or criticize his actions and those of his wife and cronies.

Today, 17 years after the end of the conjugal dictatorship, many of those who were forcibly taken away from their families for questioning by police and military authorities for alleged sins against the government still have to be accounted for. In an ironic twist of fate, some of the jailers and interrogators of those *desaparecidos* have been promoted to higher positions or elected to public office.

The Philippines was a functioning and vibrant democracy in 1972 when Marcos, who was barred from running for another presidential term, felt he was too young to retire from government so he invoked the ambiguous martial law provision of the 1935 Constitution to perpetuate himself in power.

In 1959, or four decades ago, Myanmar had a duly elected president and legislative body. It suffered from social and economic problems like many other underdeveloped countries. But the head of the armed forces then, Gen. Ne Win, thought he could do a better job in running his country so he seized power from Prime Minister U Nu and, since then, the military has kept its hold on the government.

The Myanmar people expressed their desire to return to representative democracy through the 1990 elections that Suu Kyi's party won handily. No dice. The military top brass had no intention of giving up their privileged positions. The genie did not want to return to the bottle after it had experienced the joy of freedom. In the military's case, that of absolute power.

International pressure

It's Myanmar's misfortune that its ruling officials are not sensitive to world opinion. They do not give a damn if the rest of the international community view them with contempt or demonize them in public forums whenever the opportunity presents itself.

And why not? They have no reason to be scared of the "foreign devils." They hardly leave Myanmar except for occasional trips to their closest ally, China, for medical reasons or to buy military hardware. Their families have no appetite for the pleasures of modern living or enjoy the amenities that the capitals of the world can offer. They do not have bank accounts in the United States or elsewhere in the world that can be seized to pressure them into doing something against their will.

So when the United States and European countries demanded the lifting of Suu Kyi's house arrest, the military junta thumbed its nose on them. It described the demand as an interference in Myanmar's domestic affairs. It relented only after China made the request and, even then, her movements outside her residence were, and continue to be, closely monitored.

In the Philippines' case during the martial law years, the Marcoses were conscious of how the rest of the world viewed them. They had the burning desire to be accepted as part of the world's political and social elite. How Marcos drooled when then US President Ronald Reagan invited him to the United States for a state visit! But most importantly, they had bank deposits and assets in the United States, Switzerland and other tax havens that required them to be in the good graces of the leaders of those countries.

Fervent hope

It did not come as a surprise therefore that when key US officials asked for the release of some prominent political prisoners from detention, the medical treatment of opposition leader Ninoy Aquino in the United States and the easing of restrictions on political rights, Marcos was only too willing to oblige.

As luck would have it, that attitude of greater pliability worked in the country's favor at the height of the 1986 Edsa Revolution. When US Sen. Paul Laxalt advised Marcos "to cut and cut clean," meaning to give up the fight to stay in power, the latter took that advice seriously and immediately scampered out of Malacañang.

The chances of that scenario being repeated in Myanmar are nil. Outside of China's leaders, there are no other international personalities who have communication links with key officials of the military junta. Besides, with China's spotty human rights record, it's doubtful if it would even broach the idea to the junta of giving its citizens some democratic space. That would be like a prostitute preaching the virtues of virginity.

It's a relief that we have passed the stage that the Myanmar people are going through now. The road to our salvation from martial law was not easy. We can only pray that the Myanmar people will get over this crisis with the least sacrifice in human lives.

Crucial requisites to the road map's success

COMMENTARY

Alon Ben-Meir

FOR PRESIDENT Bush to breathe real life into the road map for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, he must first insist that two prerequisites are immediately met: The Palestinian Authority must publicly recognize and unequivocally accept the Jewish/Israeli historic right to exist in part of its ancient homeland and Israel must accept Palestine's right to exist as a free nation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The unequivocal acceptance of these two principles by the two parties is the only thing that can create a new national psychological disposition in each which will allow the parties to deal with the issues that have blocked any previous agreement. These issues include: the use of violence as a political tool, the Palestinian right of return to villages within Israel, the disposition of the Israeli settlements, the future of Jerusalem and the establishment of final borders. Without the acceptance of these two principles, all the confidence-building measures the administration is asking both sides to agree to will be tactical in nature and easily reversed, as occurred with the previous advances which were wiped out by the second Intifadah. Yes, reciprocal confidence building measures to ease tensions may work for a while, but in the end will offer Israelis and Palestinians only the mirage of peace.

President Bush would be wise to recall the reasons behind the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations at Camp David in the Summer of 2000. At that time the Palestinians could have realized almost everything they demanded from Israel. Former Israeli Prime Minster Barak was willing to concede all of Gaza, 97 percent of the West Bank, and a Palestinian foothold in Jerusalem. But Chairman Yasser Arafat viewed the prospective accord as just another stage in the process of eliminating Israel as a political entity. (The return of more than three million Palestinian refugees to Israel proper would have established the Palestinians as an absolute majority in less than 10 years, thereby obliterating the Jewish "identity" of the state.) In addition, Arafat refused to consider the prospective agreement as the final one, putting an end to the conflict between the two peoples and with each side disavowing any future claims against the other. Rather, Arafat insisted that he had no authority to commit future generations to any agreement that fell short of his people's national aspirations.

Arafat's refusal at Camp David dealt a devastating, if not fatal blow, to the peace process. To the majority of Israelis, it now seemed as if the intention of the Palestinian leadership all along had been the elimination of Israel in stages. Otherwise, why had the PLO charter which called for the destruction of Israel never been amended? And why did Palestinian textbooks fail to mention Israel and its maps not indicate Israeli existence?

Israel made its own contribution to the political and psychological impasse with its expansionist settlements. To the Palestinians, every new settlement was a symbol of an occupation with no end in sight, leading them to believe that Israel would never relinquish the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians could find no way to reconcile the settlements' phenomenon with their own aspirations to create a vibrant Palestinian state. Moderate Palestinians who had accepted the inevitability of the Israeli existence now bowed to the growing voices of the extremist Islamic and leftist Palestinian groups that saw no virtue in accommodating Israel even tactically. The nature of the occupation itself was also intolerable, humiliating the Palestinians in ways large and small, making them determined to throw off the Israeli yoke.

The second Intifadah, or I should say, the Israeli-Palestinian war, changed the conflict into a war for survival. This is why no confidence-building measures will work unless the fundamental premise of each side's right to exist is reaffirmed in an unshakable, determined and direct manner. Only then, will the Palestinian Authority be able to explain to its people why the right of return is no longer viable and the permanent cessation of violence, especially suicide bombing, is at the core of any permanent solution? And only then will the Israeli government be able to explain to its people why most of the settlements, which happen to be political and as such the least populated, must eventually be dismantled to make room for a functioning Palestinian state.

Are these prerequisites necessary? The short answer is: absolutely yes. After nearly three years of disastrous failure incurred by the second Intifadah, it has finally dawned on a growing number of Palestinians that Israel is there to stay. This realization might provide their new leadership with the mandate to commit itself to dealing with Israel as an unshakable reality. Meanwhile, a majority of Israelis (62 percent) want to end the occupation. Their support of this in turn has given Prime Minister Ariel Sharon the backing he needs to end the settlements' policy. A hint of the change in the air is his recent labeling the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza as an "occupation."

This is why if President Bush is serious about peace between Israel and the Palestinians, he must first demand that they unambiguously recognize each other's right to exist in their mutual homeland. Only then, will confidence-building measures become the markers on the road map to permanent peace.

Alon Ben-Meir is the Middle East project director at the World Policy Institute, New York. He is also a professor of International Relations at New York University.

Impeaching the Supreme Court

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

FORMER SEN. Rene Saguisag, who is seeking the impeachment of eight justices of the Supreme Court, is quoted as saying that his aim is simply "to set the record straight," and not necessarily to pave the way for the return of Joseph Estrada as president. He believes that by setting "the record straight," we will be strengthening the rule of law and restoring respect for our institutions.

I agree with him. I agree that we should not shy away from an open discussion of the events that dislodged Estrada from the presidency and allowed his vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to succeed. I also believe that this could have the beneficial effect of educating our people in the nature of government and the law, and of prodding them to participate more actively in the nation's affairs. I do not think the issues raised should be dismissed out of hand, or impugned as potentially destabilizing. Some things are far more destabilizing—corruption in high places, electoral cheating, war in Mindanao, crime, mass poverty and oppression, etc.

My one reservation about impeaching the Supreme Court at this time has to do with the context, which diminishes the moral import of the case. Saguisag's client is facing plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan. Government prosecutors have spent the last two years presenting evidence to prove these charges. It is Estrada's turn to refute the government's case, yet he stalls by insisting he cannot be prosecuted because he is still president. Instead of proving his innocence, he raises the same question about his current status that the Supreme Court had resolved earlier, with finality.

It would have been more correct if the impeachment case were filed at the start of the Macapagal presidency. Or before the Supreme Court was asked to rule on the legality of Ms Macapagal's succession. To question the honesty and credibility of a court only after it has handed down a decision unfavorable to one's client cannot possibly strengthen our institutions or reinforce the rule of law.

Saguisag says the inside story of the Court's extraordinary initiative to swear in Ms Macapagal on Jan. 20, 2001 is only now being told. He cites the revealing account of Justice Artemio Panganiban in his latest book, "Reforming the Judiciary." Panganiban relates how he felt on Jan. 19, after top officials of the military and the police announced their withdrawal of support for President Estrada.

"From that point on," Panganiban writes, "it became clear to me that President Estrada could not effectively govern the country, but that Vice President Arroyo could not legally lead it either. In other words, from that fateful afternoon, there was no effectively functioning government in the country." He decides to call Chief Justice Hilario Davide in the early morning of Jan. 20 to share this troubling thought. Davide's ruminations on that day are running on parallel lines. "He asked me to announce over radio and television his intention to administer the presidential oath to the then Vice President." One of the SC justices hears the announcement, and calls the Court to verify and question the proposal. That morning, Davide calls the justices to an emergency session. Twelve came, and, "after an animated discussion on the various constitutional aspects of the situation," they unanimously authorized the Chief Justice to administer the oath to Ms Macapagal provided a letter requesting such was received from her. "They even went to the Edsa Shrine to witness the oath-taking ceremony."

In light of this information, Saguisag contends, the justices appear to have prejudged the legitimacy case later brought before them. They were passing judgment on the legality of an event they had a direct hand in bringing about. They had sworn in a president even before it was clear whether or why the presidency was vacant.

Though they were unanimous in affirming the legitimacy of the new president, the justices did in fact have differing interpretations of the events that warranted Ms Macapagal's succession. There were four theories, says Justice Panganiban. The majority of the justices believed that Estrada had resigned. Two justices insisted he had become incapable of governing the country. One thought he practically abandoned his office. And four believed that while Estrada neither resigned nor voluntarily left the presidency, the reality is that there is a new president who has been recognized as such by Congress, the international community and by the people.

It is clear that on Jan. 20, 2001, the justices were acting against the background of a perceived crisis. They were concerned about the Constitution, but more than that, they felt protective of a political order they thought could rapidly descend into chaos. Rightly or wrongly, they believed that at that moment, only the Supreme Court had the credibility and power to avert lawlessness. The historic path they took was to swear in the vice president as president. It was an unusual move taken at an extraordinary time that paid little attention to legal procedure.

Did they do the right thing? This, to me, in the final analysis, is a political question, not a legal one. The impeachment case against the Supreme Court in effect seeks to reverse Edsa II. If the Filipino people think there is a need to do this, they will, I am sure, find a way. In the meantime, there is no reason why the Sandiganbayan should not proceed with the trial of the plunder case against the former president.

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TALK *of the* TOWN

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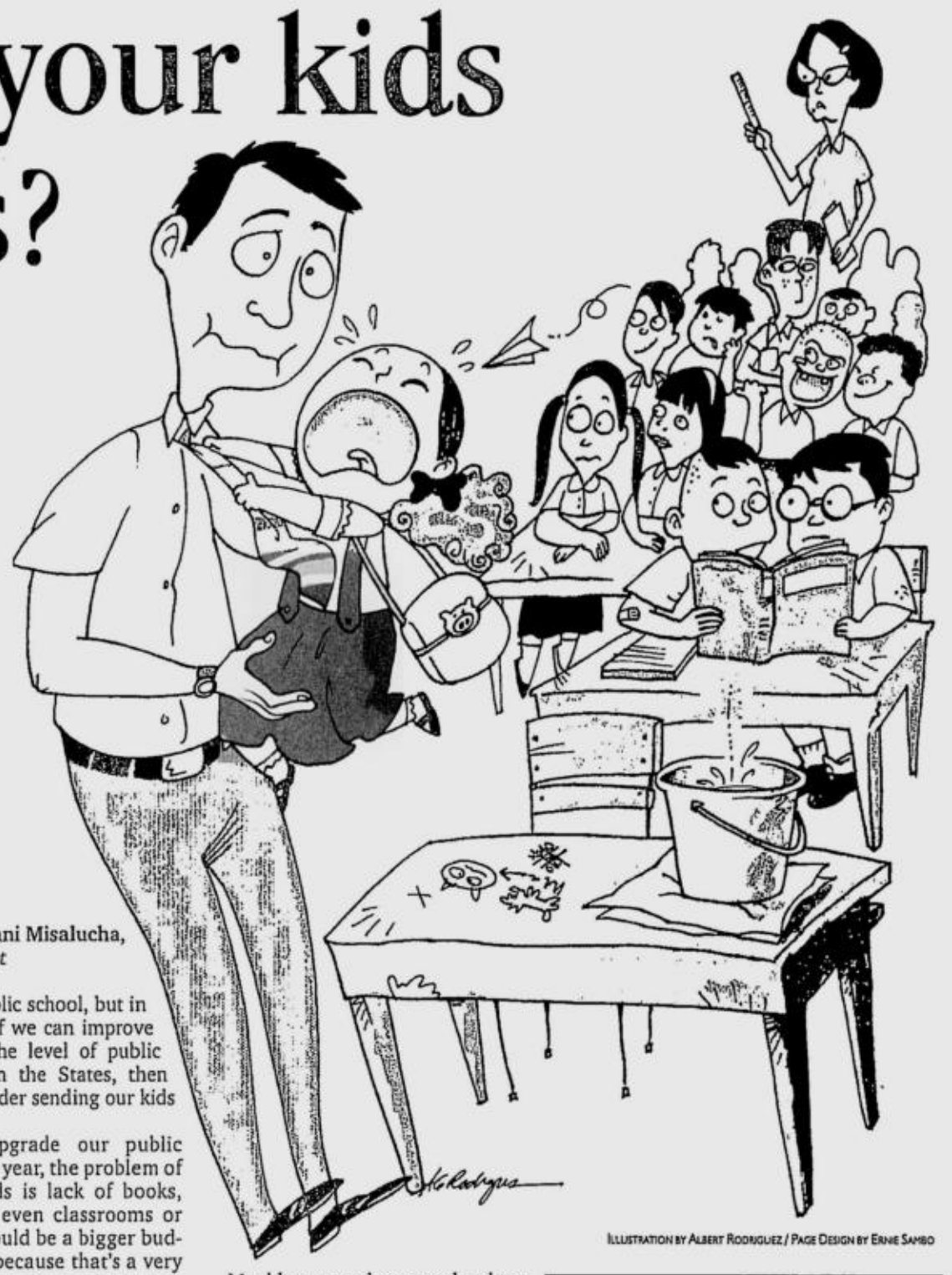
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Would you send your kids to public schools?



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SENDING one's children to either public or private schools is largely a function of the parents' financial capacity. If the parents can afford the tuition, they usually send their children to private schools, which are generally acknowledged as having better facilities than public schools.

Those who can not afford the tuition in private schools have no choice but to send their children to the tuition-free public school system despite its shortage of school buildings, textbooks, desks, chairs and even teachers.

It's another matter for the Philippine Science High School and the University of the Philippines—two state-supported institutions that offer quality education.

Even members of the economic and political elite would want their children to study at Philippine Science and UP where many apply but few are accepted. Only about 6 percent of those who take up the UP entrance examination are accepted at UP Diliman. It's even tougher to get into Philippine Science where less than 2 percent of the applicants are accepted.

But studying in certain public schools does not put one at a disadvantage as some would like to think. Some public elementary and high schools offer quality education that can compare with those given by private schools. Besides, public schools can teach the young resourcefulness, perseverance and hard work.

'If they get into Philippine Science'

I WOULD if they get into Philippine Science High School. Other than that, I'd send my children to private schools. Of course, we want to provide our children with the best possible opportunity. Private schools offer better opportunities because they're better funded.—**Lance Gokongwei**, *president, JG Summit Inc.*

If I do it, it would have to be in UP. Sadly, the quality of primary public education leaves much to be desired. The shortage of school buildings, textbooks, desks and teachers has contributed to the deterioration of the quality of education in the country.—**Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan**, *senator*

I sent my children to private schools. —**Edilberto de Jesus**, *education secretary*

At this time I would rather not send my children to a public school. Despite the severe shortage of funds, we are all working toward building a high-quality public education system that would attract even the children of well-off Filipinos. The current leadership of the Department of Education is on the right track. It needs to stay on irrespective of whoever is elected President in 2004 to ensure that the meaningful programs it hatched be given a chance to succeed. Attaining high-quality public education is a long-term war that cannot be won by short-term generals. I want to live to see the day come when most of our business and government leaders are comfortable sending their children to public schools.—**Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes**, *chair, House committee on basic education and culture*

'I don't mind'

I DON'T mind sending my kids to public schools because I used to study in a public school myself. I spent my elementary years at the Rafael Palma Elementary School in Makati. My eldest daughter Louvren, now 12, used to be a student of the Viejo Elementary School in Guadalupe, Makati. She took up nursery there.

I was impressed with how teachers there taught my daughter how to read. She started reading books way ahead of her playmates, who studied in a nearby private school. She and her younger sister transferred to a private school only when we moved to Mandaluyong City.

Public schools are known for teachers, who, out of poverty, sell all sorts of things to their pupils. I don't mind that, as long as teachers don't pressure kids into buying their wares.—**Lani Misalucha**, *singer and "SOP" host*

I studied in a public school, but in the United States. If we can improve our education to the level of public school education in the States, then maybe we can consider sending our kids to public schools.

We have to upgrade our public schools here. Every year, the problem of most public schools is lack of books, chairs, tables and even classrooms or teachers. There should be a bigger budget for education, because that's a very important tool in shaping one's personality.

The government should do something to raise the standard of education in the country. Very few families can afford to send their children to private schools. —**Bong Revilla Jr.**, *actor*

Private schools, if one has the money. Some of my children study in private schools. The others are in a public school.

Public schools may lack the facilities, but these are better than second-rate private schools. In public schools, teachers must be eligible and computer literate, unlike in some private schools, which accept teachers without eligibility. —**Herminia Sevilla**, *teacher, Quezon City High School, Kamuning*

My eldest son and younger daughter study in a private school. Although the tuition is beyond our budget, we can see the effect of the school's teachings on our son who is now in Grade 3 and our daughter who is in Grade 1. Our greatest consolation? They study on their own, and are capable of doing their homework well with minimum supervision.

They are getting quality education, but I do not see any reason why I should not transfer them to a public school should the need arise financially. After all, their parents are both products of public schools. Public schools can now equal the education given by private schools.—**Norgina-Marian Villafuerte Mendoza**, *teacher, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Makati*

'Sending our children to public schools made them better individuals'

By Vikky Bondoc-Cabrera
Entrepreneur

THIS year, the youngest of our three daughters will be in Grade 5, in a public school. Her two older sisters, now college graduates, had also spent the most part of their formal education in public schools. In comparison, my husband and I both studied in private schools from kindergarten through high school until we went to the University of the Philippines, where we met, to pursue our college degrees. Our respective parents had made sure that we got the "best" exclusive education there was and we were thankful to them for this.

As parents though, we began to form our own concept of education fit for our own children. Thanks to our UP exposure, we initially enrolled our first two children in a privately run "open classroom"-type school that offered a progressive alternative to the usual clergy-run exclusive school. While we largely agreed with the school's advanced concepts and system of teaching, the cost of sending our kids to that school would later become prohibitive, being young parents still struggling to make a go at our careers.

The year, 1986, when we transferred our two older children to a public elementary school, my and my husband's family could not understand our decision. I could almost hear them say: "Why didn't you enroll them in your alma mater?" "Why do they have to be the guinea pigs for your ideas?"

Were we unfair to our children for not providing them the "best" private education that our own parents afforded us? Definitely, it was also a difficult decision for us. But looking back, the experience has made us better parents, more "hands-on" with our children's education compared with other parents slaving in the office to save up for next year's enrolment in one's favored exclusive school. We'd like to believe now that sending our children to public school—growing up and making friends with the daughter or son of the *labandera*, the tricycle driver, the OFW, as well as with children of more privileged families—has made them better individuals with a well-balanced social outlook.

Here's our take on this issue:

- Private schools undoubtedly have better facilities but this doesn't necessarily mean that they are better equipped to teach our children. It is important that parents supplement their children's day-to-day learning regardless of whether they send their children to a public school. These days, children can learn as much from other sources like the family computer and the Internet, and parents should provide them the pathways for these.
- Admittedly, there is much to be desired from our public schools. More than 50 children are packed in small dilapidated classrooms. Roofs leak; pathways are muddy; restrooms are clogged and smelly. Books are almost always not enough. My advice: work for desired changes from within. Join PTAs and actively take part in improving your child's school facilities and curriculum.
- Be critical of our national education system and petition our legislators and education officials for a system more responsive to our children's and national development needs.

We're proud that our two daughters have moved on to excel in the local city science high school and to finish their respective courses in UP. The first daughter now owns and manages a successful business with a friend, while the second is with the marketing department of a reputable firm. There is no reason to doubt that our third daughter will be as fulfilled and successful. All three are well adjusted in dealing with people from various classes and persuasions, extremely caring for the underprivileged, protective of the environment, and appreciative of and thankful for what they have. They are comfortable with house work, have good fashion sense even while maintaining simple lifestyles, and, if I may add, definitely speak and write good English.

'I learned the value of perseverance and hard work from public schools'

By Jess Advincula
Businessman

I PRACTICALLY grew up in public schools, eating "nutribuns" on break time during my elementary days (until 1972). I guess that was one of the advantages when one studied in a public school then. One gets cheap food that save parents some extra bucks. If my parents were just rich enough to send me to a private school they would not have had second thoughts. But having 10 other siblings and with parents as government employees, I really had no choice but to go to a public school.

I still believe that private schools offer better quality education and training. Private schools teach relatively more advanced lessons than public schools. When I was in 4th year high school, I remember that 2nd year Maryknollers visited our campus as part of their community-relations activities. Our valedictorian was having a hard time debating on certain topics with one of their representatives.

As to school facilities, which I believe help a lot in creating an environment conducive to learning, private schools are better equipped. I had experienced attending classes under a big *balete* tree. And during rainy days, I would make sure I came to class early so I could choose the spot where there was no water dripping from the roof.

Private schools also have sufficient learning materials and references. While public schools may have complete reference and research books, these are not sufficient relative to the number of students. Studying in the library was one of my frustrations because every time I visited it to borrow books I would always end up empty-handed, as the books were already out. So, I would have to travel a kilometer to beg my classmate to lend me his book.

In addition, private schools also have good sports facilities that help children develop their physical well-being.

Now, all of my children are studying in exclusive schools. I can't help but compare my experiences and training with theirs. My wife and I decided to send them to exclusive schools because we believe that a private education is the best legacy we can give them.

Considering the stiff competition these days, as can be gleaned from the classified ads in which one can't help but notice companies requiring applicants from exclusive schools, any parent will surely wish that his or her children could graduate from private schools.

Only when children are sent to private schools or to specialized government schools like Philippine Science and a few other premier public schools will parents be assured of their children's competitive edge upon graduation from elementary or high school.

But studying in public schools has also its advantages. From them I learned the value of resourcefulness, perseverance and hard work. These qualities enable me to measure up and be competitive with products of private schools.

Personalities who studied in public schools

Washington SyCip. The SGV founder was a first grader in 1927 at the Burgos Elementary School in Manila, where he showed his brilliance by finishing the seven-year course in less than five and a half years. He moved on to Mapa High School and later took up accounting at the University of Santo Tomas where he graduated summa cum laude.

Lino Brocka. The National Artist for Film studied at Nueva Ecija North High School, where he became the best orator in the province. At UP, he pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature.

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin. The archbishop of Manila got his elementary education from New Washington Elementary School in Aklan before he went to study at the St. Vincent Ferrer Archdiocesan Seminary in Jaro, Iloilo City.

N.V.M. Gonzales. The National Artist for Literature had his early schooling in Romblon and later attended Mindoro High School. In 1930, he took the UP entrance examination but failed. Years later, in a twist of fate, he was invited by UP to teach English and short story from 1951 to 1967, although he had no college degree.

Gloria Romero. The veteran movie actress who is in a class all her own, attended grade school at Mabini Elementary School and graduated from Mabini Riverview High School in Mabini, Pangasinan.

Hilario G. Davide. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is a full product of the public school system. He obtained his elementary education from Argao (Cebu) Elementary School in 1949 and finished high school at the Abellana Vocational High School in Cebu City in 1953. At UP, he got his Associate in Arts in 1955, his Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence in 1958 and his Bachelor of Laws in 1959.

Juan Flavier. The Senate President Pro Tempore was elementary and high school valedictorian at Baguio's Mabini Elementary School in 1948 and Baguio City High School in 1952, respectively. He pursued his science and medical degrees at UP, Manila. He capped his medical internship at UP-PGH in 1960 as Outstanding Intern.

Pilar Pilapil. The former beauty queen turned movie actress had her early schooling at Liloan (Cebu) Elementary School before she went to Colegio de la Immaculada Concepcion, in Cebu City and later to St. Joseph College for a drama course.

Danny Javier. The member of the Apo Hiking Society spent some of his elementary years in the province. Aside from attending the Colegio de la Immaculada Concepcion in Cebu City, he also received his elementary education from Gacat Elementary School in Leyte and Calagasan Elementary School in Argao, Cebu. *PDI Research*

A mural by Carlos "Botong" Francisco at the administration building of United Laboratories

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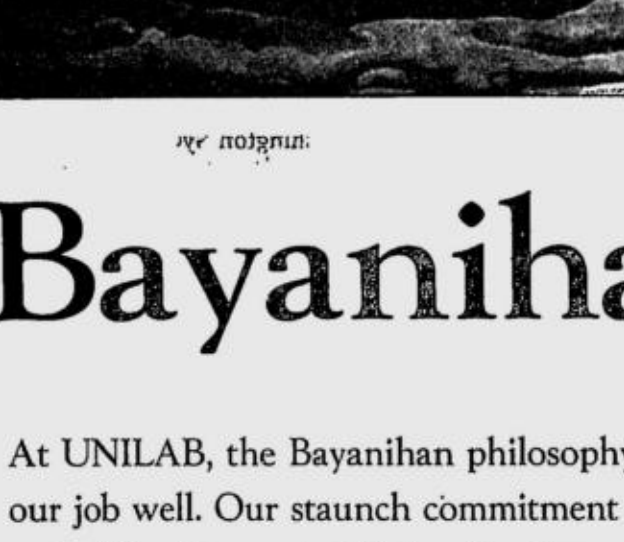

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Secret Pentagon report cast doubts on Iraq weapons

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration pushed for war against Iraq last fall because of weapons of mass destruction despite a secret Pentagon report it did not have enough "reliable information" Iraq was amassing chemical weapons, a defense official said on Friday.

Hours after portions of the classified September 2002 report by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) leaked out on Friday, the head of the agency said information from the report was quoted out of context and his agency believed Iraq had a WMD program.

"The sentence that is being carried is a single sentence lifted out of a longer planning document," Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, director of the DIA, told reporters after addressing a closed Senate Armed Services committee hearing on the issue.

Earlier, a US defense official confirmed a sentence in the report that said the DIA did not have enough "reliable information" that Iraq had chemical weapons.

News of the report added to claims the White House and the Pentagon slanted intelligence on Baghdad's weapons program to justify the war. No such weapons have been found since Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was ousted in April.

"It (the report) talks about the fact that at the time in September 2002 we could not specifically pin down individual facilities operating as part of the weapons of mass destruction programs, specifically the chemical warfare portion," said Jacoby.

In no way, said Jacoby, was the document intended to suggest US doubt that such a weapons program existed. "DIA joined in the intelligence community assessment and that assessment assessed that they had a weapons of mass destruction program in place," said Jacoby.

Republican Sen. John Warner urged Americans to trust the administration's claims. "I make the appeal to the American people to continue to repose trust in this administration as we go forward (in the search)."

Around the time of the DIA report, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld went to Congress to press his case that Iraq was stockpiling chemical and biological weapons.

Surprise at the lack of chemical weapons has even been expressed by the US military. Last week, US Marine Lt. Gen. James Conway said US intelligence was "simply wrong" in leading the military to believe the invading troops were likely to be attacked with chemical weapons.

CIA Director George Tenet has defended his agency's intelligence on chemical and biological weapons, saying the "integrity of our process was maintained throughout."

On Friday, a leading national security historian, John Prados, concluded in a study that the CIA bowed to political pressure to hype the threat of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs ahead of the US-led war in Iraq.

Reuters

Blast in Kabul kills 3 German peacekeepers

KABUL—A suspected suicide bomber in a car blew up a bus carrying German peacekeepers in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, killing at least three soldiers and injuring 30 people, including some passers-by, officials said.

Witnesses at the scene of the blast, the first deadly attack on the 5,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), said they saw the mangled wreckage of the car carrying the explosives and bloodstains and shards of glass on the road.

"It was a deliberate attack from a passing car," said ISAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Paul Kolken. "We can confirm three dead and several wounded," he said.

ISAF troops were at the scene shortly after the explosion at around 8.00 a.m. and cordoned off the area.

ISAF medical staff worked frantically to extract victims from the bus and a helicopter landed nearby to transfer the wounded to an ISAF-run hospital.

A German Defense Ministry spokesperson in Berlin said that as well as the three soldiers on board who died, around 30 people were wounded, including 10 who suffered serious injuries. Some of the wounded were pedestrians.

The incident was the latest in a string of attacks in Afghanistan aimed at US-led coalition forces, international peacekeepers and aid agencies.

One Afghan police official, who put the death toll at five, said it was too early to say who was behind the attack.

But in previous cases in recent months they have blamed remnants of the ousted Taliban regime and the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, suspected of masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Saturday's explosion was the second violent incident involving German peacekeepers in Kabul in the past two weeks. *Reuters*

Thousands flee as Liberia rebs attack capital

MONROVIA—Tens of thousands fled fighting Friday between rebels and government troops near Monrovia, capital of Liberia, as peace talks on the war-ravaged west African state were hurriedly suspended just after they had begun.

The main rebel group known as the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) pushed to within five km of the city center, then announced it had ordered its men to halt the offensive.

At the talks in Ghana, former Nigerian ruler Abdulsalami Abubakar, acting as mediator, said a ceasefire would have to be in place before the talks could get down to real business.

"The question of a ceasefire must be addressed with an unselfish honesty so as to avoid turning Liberia into an endless killing field and a colony of miserable displaced persons in camps who live on handouts of charity like beggars," Abubakar said.

The west African regional grouping Economic Community of West African States , organizing the negotiations, announced from Abuja, Nigeria the talks had been suspended until Monday.

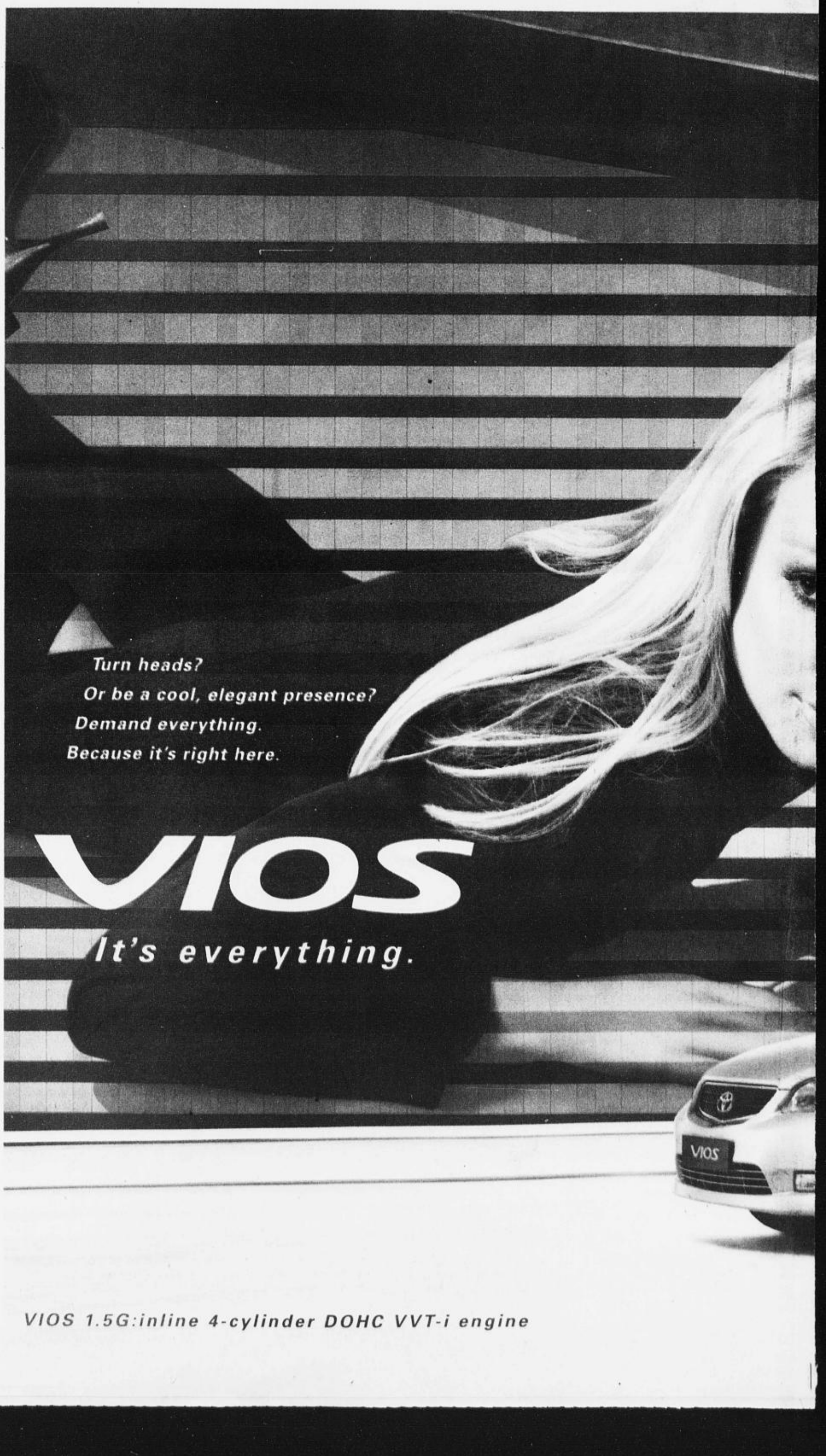
Talks proper had begun Friday at Akosombo in Ghana. But negotiators almost immediately suspended work.

"It's absurd to sit discussing while there is fighting going on," Akufo-Addo, foreign minister of the host country Ghana, was quoted as saying.

LURD, which launched an insurgency against Taylor four years ago, controls much of the country, where almost uninterrupted civil war has left an estimated 200,000 people dead since the early 1990s.

Latest unrest has forced some 300,000 Liberians to flee to neighboring countries and claimed thousands more lives.

Both government and insurgents have been accused of widespread rights abuses, killing, rape, torture and using child fighters. *AFP*



Junta blames Suu Kyi but meets with envoy

RANGOON—One of Burma's most powerful leaders blamed Aung San Suu Kyi's party for violence last week in which at least four people were killed, a sign that the military regime may not be willing to release the Nobel laureate from detention.

The comments by military intelligence chief Khin Nyunt, published in state newspapers on Saturday just before he met a UN envoy who is in the country to secure Suu Kyi's release, are the first by a senior member of the junta on the May 30 violence.

"The recent course of confrontation taken by the NLD (National League of Democracy) led to creating the untoward incidents, causing a great loss to the state," Khin Nyunt was quoted saying in a speech to officials at an airport opening ceremony on Friday.

"Corrupt practices and the organizational work of the NLD instigated by foreign nations will not benefit the country."

Khin Nyunt held an hour-long meeting on Saturday with Razali Ismail, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's envoy to Burma, but there was no immediate word on what transpired.

Before heading into further meetings at the foreign ministry, Razali hinted the junta had not yet agreed to give him access to Suu Kyi.

"I am still in the process of making my case . . . This is what I have to discuss further."

Diplomats had said the meeting with Khin Nyunt would be key to whether the junta would grant access to Suu Kyi, who, according to some reports, may have been injured in the clashes.

Razali met Foreign Minister Win Aung on Friday.

Suu Kyi, the NLD leader and 1991 Nobel peace prize winner, has been held in undisclosed locations since violence erupted between her supporters and those favoring the junta as she toured a provincial town in the North.

The military says four people died and 50 were injured in the clashes, but dissidents in exile suspect as many as 75 of Suu Kyi's supporters were killed and hundreds injured. They also say Suu Kyi received head and shoulder injuries.

The United States said on Thursday it suspected Suu Kyi and her convoy were ambushed by "government-affiliated thugs." The government denied that.

UN sources in New York said Razali's orders from Annan were to meet Suu Kyi and leaders of her NLD and said he would cut short his mission and leave Burma if this request were denied. He arrived in Rangoon on Friday and is due to leave on June 10.

The United States, Britain and the European Union have said they are considering slapping more trade and investment sanctions on Burma as a result of Suu Kyi's treatment.

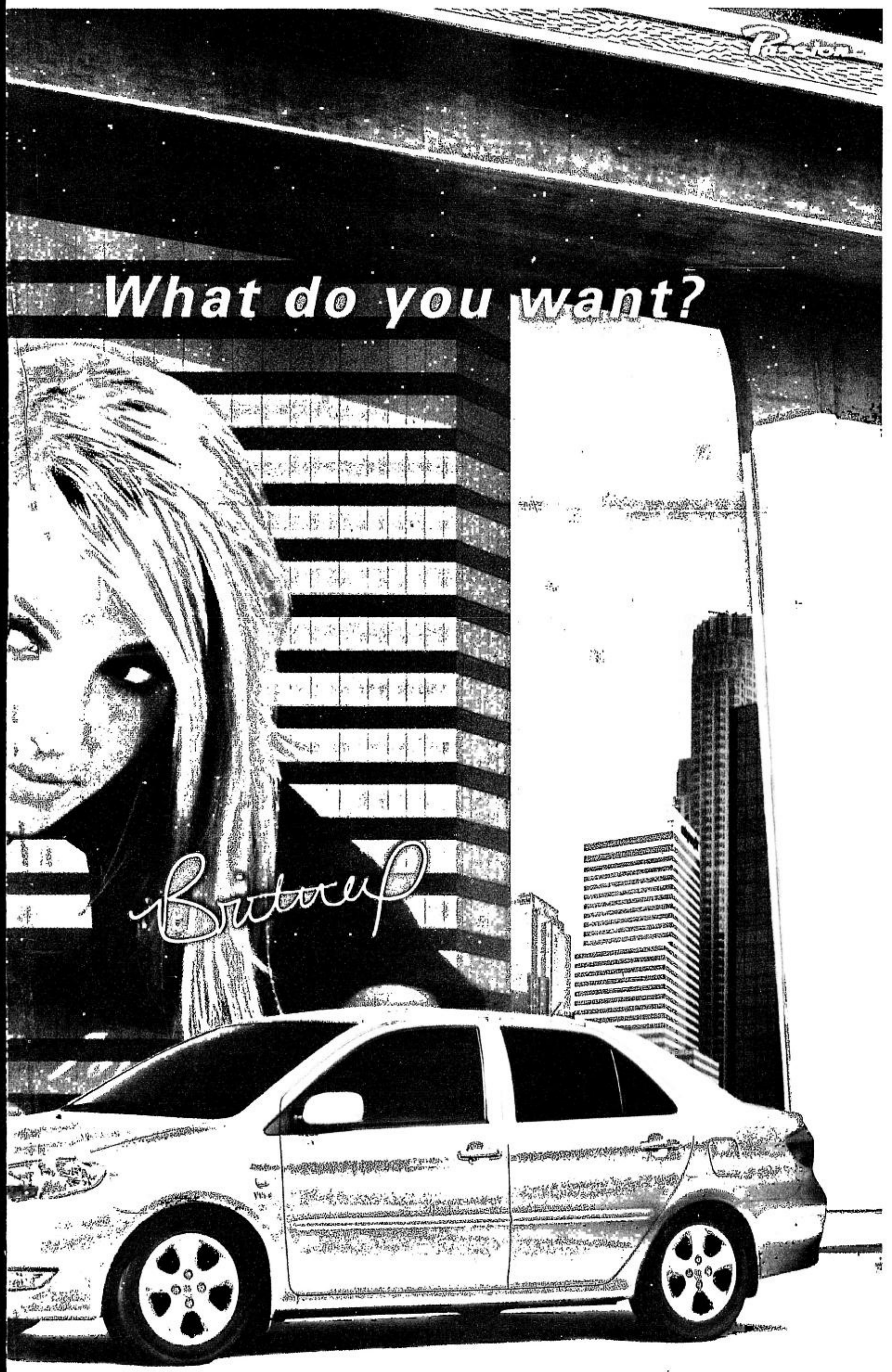
Washington said on Friday it had put more associates of the military rulers in Burma on a visa ban list.

The military has ruled the country ever since since a 1962 coup.

As part of a broad crackdown, the junta has shut NLD offices, ordered 19 of its top leaders confined to their houses and closed universities, seen as hotbeds of support for Suu Kyi.

The NLD easily won Burma's last free elections in 1990 but was never allowed to rule. Suu Kyi has spent much of the last 14 years under house arrest and was last released in May 2002. *Reuters*

A BURMA activist shouts near the Burmese Embassy in Seoul, demanding the immediate release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues June 7. AP



Asia confident SARS fading despite 7 cases

HONG KONG—Reports of seven new cases of SARS in Asia Friday did little to dampen confidence that the region had the virus firmly under control as nations stepped up campaigns to repair their battered economies.

Canada, the only nation outside of Asia to report deaths from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), meanwhile worked feverishly to contain a second outbreak as a reclassification of one death saw its national toll from the virus drop to 31.

A day after the World Health Organization said the global outbreak had peaked, China—the country worst-hit by the pneumonia-like respiratory illness—reported one new case of SARS and two deaths.

It marked the 12th consecutive day that the world's most populous country reported fewer than 10 new cases of the virus, which begins with flu-like symptoms, and brought the total number of people infected in China to 5,329 with 338 reported deaths.

Two new cases of SARS were reported in Hong Kong on Friday, with two deaths, bringing the figures in the territory to 286 deaths from 1,750 infections.

Thailand reported its ninth probable SARS case, in a female laborer recently returned from Taiwan, where three new cases were also reported Friday, the first for six days apart from several suspected cases which had been confirmed as probable SARS infections.

Three nursing assistants have been confirmed to be suffering from SARS in Taiwan while three other patients have also developed similar symptoms, Health Minister Chen Chien-jen said.

Taiwan, which has suffered more than 670 SARS infections and 81 fatalities, has set next week as its goal for being removed from the World Health Organization's travel advisory blacklist.

In Hong Kong, where the WHO's advisory has already been lifted, Health Director Margaret Chan said the government would strive to remain vigilant to bring new infections down to zero.

She conceded "there will be sporadic cases and we don't know how long that will last." *AFP*

Poland votes on joining European Union

WARSAW—The European Union's biggest future member Poland started voting on Saturday in a two-day referendum on joining the bloc, 14 years after breaking away from communism.

Polling stations opened at 6:00 a.m. on a sunny day. They were due to close 14 hours later at 8:00 p.m., before reopening and closing at the same time on Sunday.

In the voting across some 25,000 polling stations, more than 29 million voters were asked a simple question: "Sir, Madam, do you express your consent for the Republic of Poland to join the European Union?"

Although a vast majority of those who vote at polling booths in schools, university campuses and hospitals are expected to say "yes," whether enough people will turn out to validate the referendum is less certain.

"We think it really is important," said Justyna, a 29-year-old housewife after she voted with her mother, Eva, 57, at voting station number 75 in central Warsaw.

"We hope our lives will be better than now and we will be real citizens of Europe," she said, as her mother nodded.

"Yes I do," said Karolyn, a 25-year-old psychologist when asked whether she wanted Poland to join the European Union. "Because I see it is a big chance for Poland and a better employment opportunities for me."

The latest poll released on Thursday showed that 80.9 percent of voters would say Yes, while 68 percent would definitely take part in the referendum. According to the poll by the PBS institute on 1,074 people on June 4, of those who have decided to vote 13 percent plan to say No and 6.1 percent have not yet decided. *AFP*

Hamas quits talks with Abbas on halting attacks on Israelis

GAZA—The militant Islamic group Hamas said on Friday it broke off talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas on ending attacks on Israelis, in a strong challenge to peace pledges he made at a US-led summit.

The announcement and subsequent Hamas rallies in which militants vowed more suicide bombings against Israel set Palestinian hardliners and the reformist Abbas on a collision course likely to stoke fears of civil war.

"We have stopped the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority," Hamas founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said. "This is our choice and we have no alternative. (Armed) resistance will continue."

Under pressure to crack down on militants to allow a US-backed "road map" to move forward, Abbas sought to persuade Hamas to halt attacks on Israelis in talks with the group ahead of the summit he had on Wednesday with US President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jordan.

The road map calls for a halt to Israeli-Palestinian violence and reciprocal confidence-building steps, including a freeze of Jewish settlement expansion on occupied Arab land, leading to establishment of a Palestinian state in 2005.

Bush, cementing his new role as chief Middle East peace mediator after the US-led war in Iraq, won a promise from Sharon to dismantle some settler outposts in the West Bank and endorsement of the creation of a "viable" Palestinian state.

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, called for demilitarization of a 32-month-old Palestinian uprising for independence, effectively advocating an end to an armed struggle for a state.

Yassin said Abbas made unacceptable commitments at the Aqaba summit in which they affirmed initial steps in the road map.

Reinforcing Yassin's words, thousands of Hamas supporters staged rallies across the Gaza Strip on Friday vowing to continue attacks, including suicide bombings, against Israelis.

"Hamas' announcement to continue the resistance means that buses will be blown up again in Tel Aviv," one activist shouted over a loudspeaker during one rally.

Yassin accused Abbas of ignoring key issues like the right of return of Palestinian refugees to what is now Israel and the future of Jerusalem. *Reuters*

UN says Iran not complying with nuclear obligations

VIENNA—The United Nations nuclear watchdog has accused Iran of failing to comply with safeguards intended to ensure it does not build an atomic bomb, according to a confidential report obtained by Reuters on Friday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found that the Islamic republic was taking steps to put things right. But the United States, fresh from war in neighboring Iraq over alleged banned weapons, called the report on Iran "deeply troubling."

Washington says Tehran wants to develop nuclear arms under the guise of building power reactors with Russian help, despite having signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"Iran has failed to meet its obligations under its safeguards agreement with respect to the reporting of nuclear material, the subsequent processing and use of that material and the declaration of facilities where that material was stored and processed," one passage of the eight-page IAEA report read.

The report will be presented by the agency's chief, Mohamed El-Baradei, to the governors in Vienna on June 16.

"We have answers for all the points mentioned," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi said.

"We have done nothing which violates our commitments."

Hawks around President George W. Bush have hardened rhetoric against Iran since the Iraq war, raising the specter of military action. But Bush, who last year included Iran in an "axis of evil" with Iraq and North Korea, denies any plan to attack it.

"I'm not predicting any specific action at this point," US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

"We will look at the report together with other members of the board . . . and then we'll decide together what might be appropriate at that time when we get together."

The report said Iran imported 1.8 tons of natural uranium in 1991 but did not declare the import or facilities for handling it to the IAEA until this year. It said this amount of uranium could yield 0.13 kg of enriched uranium for nuclear fuel.

"Although the quantities of nuclear material involved have not been large . . . the number of failures by Iran to report the material, facilities and activities in question in a timely manner as it is obliged to do pursuant to its Safeguards Agreement is a matter of concern," the report said. *Reuters*

FILE photo dated Jan. 4, 1998 shows US President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton dancing on the beach of Megan Bay, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands shortly after taking a swim. A poll of New York voters released June 5 finds them divided on the issue of why Mrs. Clinton penned her soon-to-be released memoirs. Twenty-eight percent said the book was meant to lay groundwork for a future presidential run, while 27 percent believed her main motivation was to "tell her side of the story." AFP

Hillary comes into her own

By Stephanie Griffith

WASHINGTON—She has been lionized in the New York press as "St. Hillary," and demonized by the right as a fire-breathing feminist: In the annals of US politics, few figures have been as polarizing as former first lady Hillary Clinton.

.Virtually from the moment she set foot in the White House in 1992, she drew the scorn of American conservatives rankled by suggestions that in electing Bill Clinton as president, voters were also getting Hillary—couched as a great two-for-one bargain.

A corporate lawyer with a pedigree from the prestigious Yale Law School, Hillary put Americans on notice early in her husband's presidential campaign that she was "not the kind of woman who stays at home baking cookies."

Even in a country long since accustomed to working mothers, Americans seemed to bristle at the notion of a first lady who did not see her primary function as hosting White House receptions and sponsoring charity events.

Her quasi-official role as White House advisor tasked with developing a national health care reform plan was a political failure however, and put an end to the brief White House experiment in "co-presidents."

The bumpy White House years likely will not be remembered fondly: Hillary found herself at the center of one scandal after the next, from the Whitewater probe involving a questionable real estate deal to the so-called Travelgate scandal, when Hillary was accused of exceeding her authority in sacking an employee in the White House travel office.

Her fortunes changed dramatically once Clinton, after a long hard year of campaigning, succeeded in being elected US senator from New York in November 2000.

Now as a prominent politician in her own right, and out from under the shadow of her husband, Hillary Clinton is able to shape policy and analysts said she is making the most of the opportunity.

"She's pursued a strategy of becoming a respected senator as opposed to being a celebrity in the Senate," said Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution. "I think she has adapted well to the Senate and earned the respect—sometimes grudging—of her colleagues."

Hillary Clinton, 55, has also established herself as a mover and a shaker in the Democratic party, providing funding with her "HillPac" political action committee, which doles out thousands of dollars in funds to less well-financed Democratic campaigns in need of her largesse.

And in a demoralized Democratic party that seems for the moment without a sense of direction, Hillary Clinton provides the hope of future possibility.

"There's excitement, anticipation of a future role as a leader of the party," Mann said. While she denies any presidential aspirations of her own, other Democrats "see her as a possible presidential candidate of the future."

Some pundits have said that writing "Living History"—the tell-all memoir that hits bookstores next week—was a shrewd career move, that allows her to once and for all bury the scandal-plagued past.

Others disagree. Karlyn Bowman, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, said "the book takes us back to the First Lady Hillary Clinton in many ways" and reminds her detractors why they so disliked her.

Much of what America most wants to know about the book has already been revealed, as salacious tidbits have leaked out in newspapers across the United States in recent days—in particular details surrounding the explosive affair between her husband and White House intern Monica Lewinsky which almost cost Bill Clinton the presidency.

Hillary Clinton insists however, that her husband's infidelity is not all there is to "Living History."

"This is a book that is about many things," the junior US senator for New York said this week in the corridors of Congress.

But Bowman said Hillary herself is responsible for the unwelcome attention to that painful part of her past. Now that she's brought up her unfaithful husband again, "it's going to continue to haunt her," she said.

Still other experts said it doesn't much matter what Clinton says—the book is not likely to change the minds of many Americans about Hillary. *AFP*

Pope to urge interfaith dialogue in Croatia

OSIJEK, Croatia—Pope John Paul II arrived Saturday in the Croatian city of Osijek, where he is expected to stress the need for interfaith dialogue in the country's east, the site of the worst atrocities committed during the 1990s war with Yugoslav-backed rebels.

The pontiff's stop in Osijek, on the third day of a landmark 100th foreign trip, is expected to draw up to 100,000 pilgrims, who have flooded in from as far as neighboring Hungary, Bosnia and Serbia and Montenegro.

Thousands began at dawn to fill streets draped in white and yellow Vatican flags, while the pope's portrait graced nearly every shop window. Other pilgrims spent the night in the open awaiting the arrival of the Roman Catholic leader, and the faithful of all age carried Vatican flags reading "Viva papa."

Osijek, just 10 km from the border with Serbia and Montenegro, still bears the scars from severe shelling by Belgrade-backed rebel Serbs during the 1991-1995 conflict.

Nearby Vukovar is the symbol of Croatia's suffering during its quest for independence from the former Yugoslavia. In 1991, during the Serbs's three-month-long siege, more than than 1,100 civilians were killed, including 250 hospital patients. The town was virtually razed to the ground.

The pope, 83 years old, is expected to bring a message of tolerance to this predominantly Roman Catholic country, surrounded by Orthodox Serbs and Bosnian Muslims in the war-ravaged Balkans region.

"A strong ecumenical emphasis will be put on Osijek and Djakovo," Zagreb Archbishop Josip Bozanic recently said, saying the ceremony would be able to "help the overall ecumenical atmosphere here."

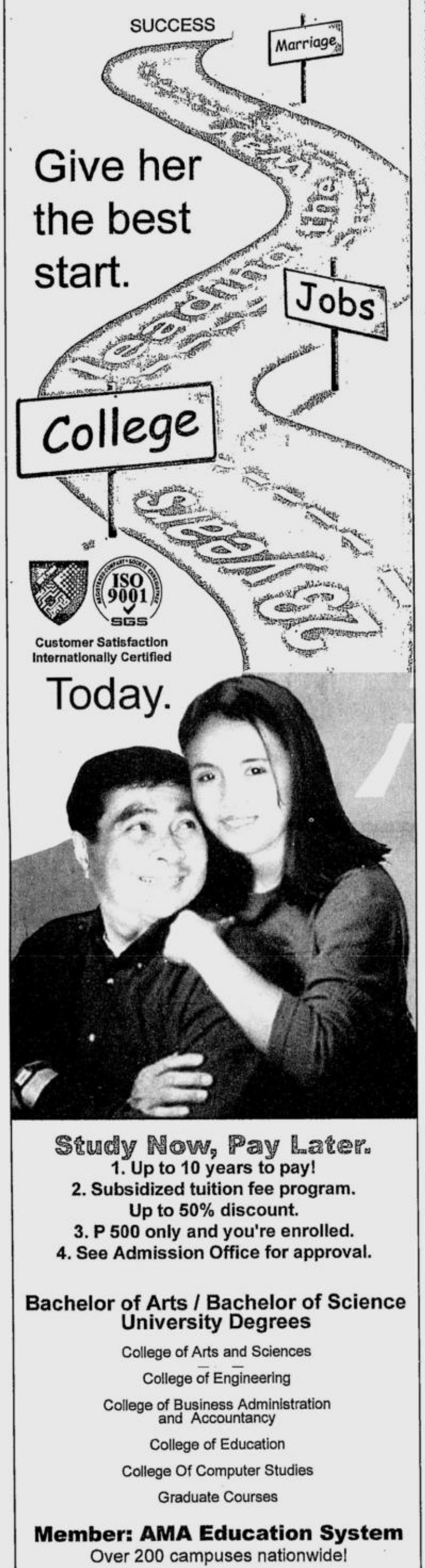
"Relations between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches in Croatia are very good and they are developing," Bozanic said, adding that the main task of the church was to ensure that "the religion never becomes a source of divisions, tensions and conflicts."

His words were echoed by the top Orthodox authority in Croatia, Metropolitan Jovan Pavlovic, who described the pope visit as "a positive event."

"We welcome the pope's efforts to contribute the world's stability and peace through his apostolic missions," Pavlovic said.

The pontiff, ailing with Parkinson's disease and nearly crippled by arthritis, is due to serve a three-hour liturgy at a small airport just outside Osijek, with the temperature expected to exceed 30 degrees Celsius. *AFP*

The Road to Life...



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Village officials prevented from attending Lacson meets

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—A top administration official has cracked the whip on its supporters against attending meetings called by opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson amid reports that various sectors and personalities are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to run for president in 2004.

In a letter dated May 30, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said it is his "desire" that no barangay official, "most especially those identified with me," attend "any" meeting with Lacson.

Lacson, a close ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada, is reportedly among those eyed by the opposition as its standard-bearer in the 2004 elections.

The "memorandum" was addressed to "all barangay officials" in Iloilo City and was written with a letterhead of the House of Representatives.

It was signed by Gonzalez as representative of the lone district of this city and as "Presidential/Lakas Pointman in Iloilo."

In his letter, Gonzalez said he received information that Lacson had been inviting barangay officials, especially barangay chiefs tomeet with him. Iloilo City has 180 barangays.

He said he was appointed by the President as the "pointman" in the city and province of Iloilo. He said it is his "duty to see to it that the Lakas group and all those coalesced with it do not attend (meetings at) any invitation for political reasons (of) any possible presidential or local candidates, until an official announcement is made by the President through me."

Gonzalez was reportedly gathering signatures of representatives endorsing his letter to the President, asking her to reconsider her decision not to run in 2004. He said he has gathered 70 signatures from members of Lakas, including signatories of a resolution supporting the candidacy of business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Lacson's supporters called Gonzalez's directive "very unfair."

"It is his (Gonzalez) right as a Lakas leader to strengthen their party's position but he should not prohibit the right (sic) of anybody to get information," said Iloilo City Councilor Joshua Alim, spokesperson of the convenors of the Ping Lacson for President Movement on Panay Island.

Alim said it is Lacson's "obligation" as a senator to consult with the people, including barangay officials, in meetings. He said Gonzalez is "depriving" the barangay officials of being "informed" by Lacson.

DAR blames NPA for land reform failure in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform has found it hard to distribute government and sequestered lands to farmer-beneficiaries, especially in upland areas of Albay, due to the intervention of the New People's Army, a DAR official told the INQUIRER.

Leo Gaveria, chief agrarian reform program officer in Albay, told the INQUIRER that surveying of lands situated in far-flung barangays has become a problem for DAR-contracted surveyors because of the presence of NPA rebels.

The survey teams, he said, now hardly goes to areas considered rebel-infested.

Gaveria said because of the "selfish motives of the NPA, it is the farmers and the tenants who suffer since they are dying to own the lands they have been tilling for years."

"The NPA rebels serve as a big obstacle and threat (to) the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp) and the Social Justice Program among land owners," the DAR official said.

Most of the lands that have not yet been surveyed are private and government-owned properties and those foreclosed by government financial institutions like the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, Gaveria said.

He said harassments by rebels experienced by the DAR surveying teams were common in Ligao City and Guinobatan and Jovellar towns.

One of the surveyors, who asked not to named, said that if they insisted on conducting the survey, the NPA members would threaten to bury them alive.

Gaveria, however, admitted that sometimes the NPA would allow surveys, only if the contractors would "negotiate" and ask permission from the rebels.

Estrella Orsena, municipal agrarian reform officer of Guinobatan, said 300 hectares of land in far-flung villages have not yet been surveyed and subdivided. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 391 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Slain radioman's family appeals for more witnesses

LUCENA CITY—The family of slain dwTI broadcaster has called on more witnesses to help them in their pursuit of justice, as it now appears that there were two sets of eyewitnesses to the bloody murder.

"Those who have additional information that could help shed more light on the killing should now come out in the open and help us in our quest for justice for Polly," Antonio Pobeda, retired police superintendent and uncle of slain radioman Polly Pobeda, told newsmen on Friday after the arraignment of the two suspects was postponed for June 23.

Pobeda expressed the belief that since the murder happened in a public place, there could be more who could identify the killers. "We're very sure that more witnesses could recognize the suspects if they would just come out in the open and help us identify the killers," he added.

The case was raffled off to Judge Stephen Cruz, presiding judge of Branch 60, Regional Trial Court. Lawyer Vic Joyas, court appointed counsel for suspects Eulogio Patulay and his brother Eric, asked for a postponement to give him more time to study the case.

Pobeda said he heard that the Patulay brothers have plans to avail themselves of protection under a program of the Department of Justice.

Meantime, Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Quezon police commander was removed from office yesterday, two days after Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Calabarzon police chief declared that the former would not be relieved from his post.

Padilla was replaced by Senior Supt. Federico Terte, as acting Quezon police provincial director, in a hastily arranged turn-over at the police provincial headquarters here in Camp Nakar.

Padilla was accused of whitewashing the case.

In a radio interview, Talaga claimed that a member of Congress from the province maneuvered to oust Padilla.

Although he did not identify the official, the chief executive was apparently referring to Rep. Lynette Punzalan.

Councilor Romano Talaga, the mayor's son, has declared his plan to contest a congressional seat against Punzalan in the next election.

Johnny Oliveros, Punzalan's district officer, immediately belied the allegation against his boss. "That's untrue, and (all are) malicious lies. The only interest of rep. Punzalan when she accompanied the Pobeda family to President Macapagal-Arroyo was to seek the help of the President for the speedy resolution of Polly's death to render justice to the victim," he said. *Delfin T. MallariJr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Chavit says GMA does not favor Ilocos Sur on tobacco excise tax

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said the shortage of government funds is delaying the release of the tobacco excise tax shares of Virginia-tobacco producing provinces.

Singson issued the statement on Saturday after Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. criticized Malacañang for allegedly depriving Ilocos Norte and other tobacco-growing provinces of the tobacco excise tax (Republic Act 7171) windfall.

Local governments derive tax allocations from RA 7171, which includes an amount equivalent to 15 percent of the excise taxes on local Virginia cigarettes in the Internal Revenue Allotment of beneficiary provinces.

Marcos also accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of favoring Ilocos Sur because, he said, it is the only tobacco-producing province that receives the tobacco excise tax share.

Singson dismissed Marcos' claims.

"I have been working hard for the immediate release of RA 7171 shares for all the four tobacco-producing provinces (Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Abra) but the government does not have money," he told the INQUIRER.

He also belied Marcos' accusation that he had been claiming that Ms Macapagal was scared of him because he might also instigate her exit, like what Singson did to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I have never claimed that to (sic) anybody because I prefer to work quietly for the welfare of my constituents or of other people who ask for my help," Singson said.

He also dismissed reports that the tobacco tax share had been his "milking cow." He defended the Macapagal administration, saying the release of tobacco excise tax shares was faster during her term than during Estrada's presidency.

"It is true that the government does not have money because of the tobacco tax scandal during Erap's (Estrada's) term," Singson said.

Singson had accused Estrada of receiving shares from the tobacco excise taxes intended for the tobacco-producing provinces in Northern Luzon. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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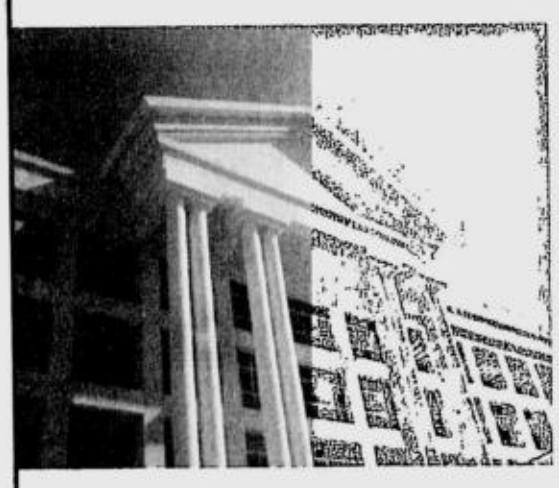

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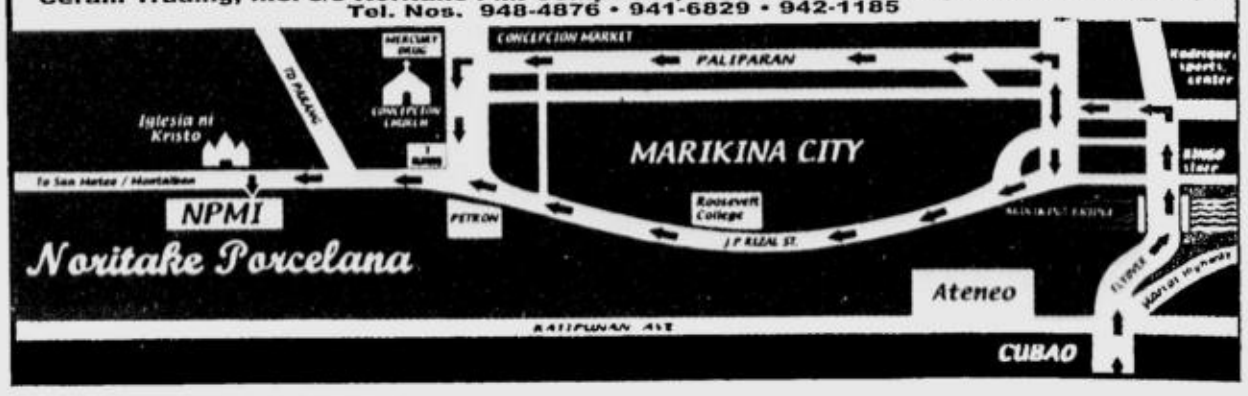


Cebuanos assured of continued power supply

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Ronnel W. Domingo

CEBU CITY—Top energy officials have assured the Cebuanos that power supply will continue despite the anticipated power shortage in December.

Energy Undersecretary Cyril del Callar said in a news conference on Wednesday that the department is addressing the problem to ensure no power disruptions in the coming months.

He said the scheduled closure of the Cebu Power Private Corp. (CPPC), an independent power producer supplying energy to the Visayan Electric Co. (Veco), would create instability in the Cebu sub-grid.

"It is a serious problem. There will be instability but (blackouts) in Cebu? No. We want to ensure power supply will be continued," del Callar said.

Energy Assistant Secretary Lasse Holopainen said he was scheduled to meet with other energy department officials and representatives from the CPPC and Veco on Friday for a reconciliatory meeting.

The CPPC is asking for a 60-centavo per kilowatt-hour increase, which means an additional P0.17 per kWh in the electric bills of consumers.

The CPPC officials announced that they were shutting down on June 15 due to financial constraints. They said they might reconsider their decision should they be allowed to increase prices.

They claimed that despite high production costs, they were selling power at a lower rate after President Mapacagal-Arroyo set the Power Purchase Adjustment of the National Power Corp. to 40 centavos from P1.07.

The CPPC rates were two percent lower than the rates pegged by the Napocor.

The CPPC is a joint venture of East Asia Utilities and Veco that supplies 62 megawatts of power reserve to Veco daily.

The Veco needs 250 to 260 MW power supply daily. At present, its power reserve is 80 MW. If the CPPC shuts down on June 15, the power reserve will be reduced to 18 MW, which will place Cebu's power supply in critical condition.

Holopainen said there was an 80-MW reserve margin for the three islands during the May peak period. During the next peak period, which is December, the reserve margin for these islands will drop to 20-30 MW.

In Manila, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said it has started putting up protective mechanisms against overloading for its subsea cables in the Visayas to cushion the effects of a looming power shortage in the region.

Transco's efforts to strengthen the reliability of electricity supply in the Visayas started with the installation of a P4-million submarine cable overload protection scheme (Scops) for the Leyte-Cebu transmission line.

Company officials explained that the Scops consists of eight equipment that give signals to the transmission network when the line becomes overloaded.

The system then automatically reduces the load to stabilize the flow of electricity and prevent damages to the line.

Transco said the Scops boosts the capacity of the Leyte-Cebu line from 180 MW to 200 MW. The line is the only link between power-hungry Cebu, Negros and Panay, and geothermal energy-rich Leyte.

Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said the 20 MW would mitigate the impact of any shortage in supply.

Abra schools now have typewriters

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGUED, Abra—In time for next week's school opening, the typewriters promised by various donors to campus journalists in remote towns of Abra have been turned over to their beneficiaries.

At least 18 typewriters donated by INQUIRER readers were turned over on Thursday by the Diocese of Bangued to 18 school-recipients.

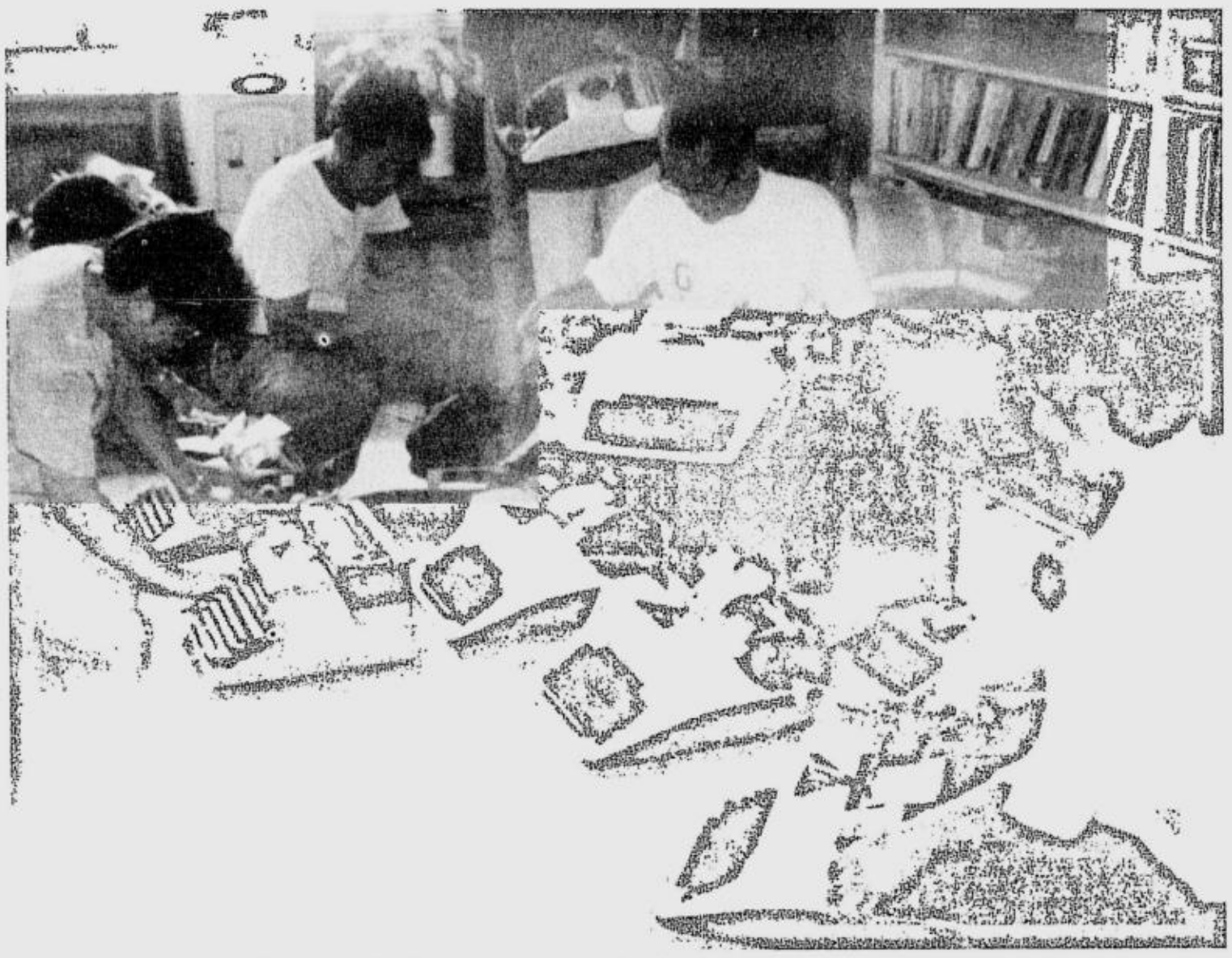
On Jan. 1, the INQUIRER ran a story on the plight of staffers of campus papers in Abra's remote towns of Tineg, Tubo and Manabo, whose schools did not have typewriters with which they could write their stories. The story appealed for donors of used typewriters to help the student journalists.

Fr. Antonio Ruyan, editor in chief of the Catholic-church run Abra Today, said Abra school paper advisers, in a recent seminar-workshop, revealed that one of the major problems of their staff members was the lack of typewriters.

When the INQUIRER story came out, Ruyan received text messages from various donors, both from the country and abroad, inquiring about how they could donate typewriters.

Ruyan said he started receiving pledges in January and the typewriters' distribution was delayed because some of them had to be repaired.

Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin and his United States-based sister donated two portable typewriters, while a defunct typing school in Metro Manila donated seven used typewriters.



ADVISERS of an Abra school paper examine the typewriters donated to them by INQUIRER readers. LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Olympia Philippines Inc., a typewriter distributor, donated two Olympia typewriters and two reams of bond paper.

Edgardo Ferras, an English teacher at Tineg National High School, said his student writers had to wait for weekends to type their stories because they had to borrow the only typewriter in town—that of the municipal hall.

Other high school papers in the inner towns of Abra also had the same problem.

Despite the lack of typewriters and computers, many of Abra's school papers were cited in various competitions for campus publications.

ROUNDUP

Loan for water

TIWI, Albay—The Postal Savings Bank has approved a loan of P20 million for the improvement of the water system of this town, Mayor Patria Gutierrez said. Gutierrez hoped that, within this week, the town council would approve a resolution granting her authority to negotiate for the release of the loan. She said that for the last 17 years, Tiwi had no sufficient water supply. In 1996, Gutierrez made a move to allocate the P10-million share of the municipality from the royalty paid by the National Power Corp. based on its gross power sales.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.

Soldier hurt in clash

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY—An Army soldier was wounded in a clash with New People's Army guerrillas in Barangay Balite on Friday. Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino, Commanding officer of the 91st Infantry Brigade (Separate), based in Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, identified the wounded soldier as Cpl. Robinson Magarro of the 202nd Infantry Batallion based in Ligao City. Magsino said, the soldiers were patrolling the area when they encountered an undetermined number of NPA rebels. The encounter resulted in a gunfight, reports said.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 die in mishap

SORSOGON CITY—Three persons were killed and another one was injured in two separate vehicular accidents along Maharlika Highway on Tuesday and Wednesday. Romeo Oribiada, 48, married and a resident of Barangay Buhatan, driver of an owner-type jeepney en route from Sorsogon City to Casiguran, bumped three persons after he was allegedly dazzled by an approaching vehicle, police reported. Oribiada maneuvered to the right and bumped Nenita Laganay, 35; Joseph Dollente, 22 and a 4-year old boy in Barangay Buhatan Tuesday. The victims were rushed to the hospital but Laganay was pronounced dead on arrival. A passenger jeep, driven by Jurry Levantino, 45, resident of Barangay Rizal of this city, also bumped Evelyn Dongaran, 12, while she was crossing the highway in Barangay Piot on Wednesday, police said. Dongaran was rushed to the hospital but died on Thursday. Levantino and Dongaran were detained at the Sorsogon City police station.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Swindlers nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested on Wednesday four alleged members of the notorious "budol-budol" (duping) gang said to be responsible for duping local residents. NBI Legazpi district chief Jose Doloiras identified the suspects as Nelly S. Cruz alias Carmen N. Marquez, 61, from La Union; Rosario C. Marquez, 61, of Caloocan City; Jose M. Orpilla, 46, of Calookan City; and Luz M. Ochoa, 45, of Quezon City. "Cruz has an estafa case involving (sic) Globe and Smart cellular cards worth P814,500," Doloiras said. The suspects denied that they were members of any "budol-budol" gang but admitted to being only pickpockets.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cellphone robbery

LUCENA CITY—Three unidentified robbers ransacked the biggest cellular phone store here in a daring robbery on Wednesday. Herman Magboo, owner of "Communication.Com Store" along Quezon Avenue, said three armed men barged into the store and immediately closeted all three staff members in the toilet. One of the male customers described the robbers as between 30 and 35 years old. Two of them were armed with .45-caliber and 9mm pistols, said the customer. Magboo said the suspects took wa. 29 units of mobile phones, mostly high-end, and an undetermined amount of cash and several pre-paid cell phone cards. Several mobile phones being repaired were also taken. The police are now in hot pursuit of the suspects.

Dellin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Typhoon victims get P20-M grant

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 6,228 farmers and 449 fishermen in four provinces in Central and Northern Luzon whose livelihood was affected by Typhoon Gloria last year, will get assistance worth P20 million, a Department of Agriculture official said.

The DA obtained the grant from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, according to Pepito de Dote, DA director in Central Luzon.

He said the DA would use the money to provide seeds, fertilizers and fingerlings to beneficiaries in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan.

"These inputs (sic) are being given to bridge the critical gap (in) the restoration of food security," De Dote said.

The four provinces were severely affected by the typhoon and the series of monsoon rains that hit the country in July last year. Production losses in these provinces reached P144 million.

The grant from FAO was meant to supplement the P1.5 million worth of emergency assistance the DA offices in Ilocos and Central Luzon extended after Typhoon Gloria hit the two regions, a report here said.

Floods spawned by the typhoon's heavy rains in the country's 19 provinces destroyed P339 million worth of crops, livestock and fisheries, reports showed.

De Dote said farm losses from floods triggered by tropical storms Chedeng and Dodong in Central Luzon rose to P32.2 million.

Floods ruined palay valued at P25.4 million, mostly in Bulacan and Pampanga; corn, at P2.5 million, mostly in Tarlac; and livestock, at P4.3 million, mostly in Bataan. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DENR says Marinduque river rehab to begin tomorrow

By Christine Gaylican

AFTER SEVEN years since the environment disaster in Marinduque caused by mine tailings struck, the rehabilitation program for the Boac River will finally begin Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said on Friday.

In a statement, DENR Secretary Elisea G. Gozun said the continuous cleanup operations in Marinduque since March 1996 will now be assessed by an independent team of mine safety, geological and pathology experts from the United States.

The US team of experts will begin its year-and-a-half study of the former Marcopper mine site in Marinduque next week.

"The Marinduque Environment and Health Study to be led by the US team is crucial for the final rehabilitation of the area. The DENR through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau is giving its utmost support to the independent team," Gozun said.

Gozun said the US team led by US Geological Survey's Dr. Jack Medlin is arriving on Monday for an initial six-day visit for the mine safety and engineering assessment of the former Marcopper mine site.

"The US team will primarily create a comprehensive mine environmental and health assessment (and) evaluation of the final remedy options and the preparation of a monitoring program for the Boac and Mogpog Rivers, the Marcopper mine site and the Calancan Bay," Gozun said.

The P20-million funding for the 18-month study of the Marinduque environment conducted by an independent team will be taken from the President's Social Fund.

Acquiring an independent team of experts was initially demanded by the provincial government of Marinduque led by Rep. Edmund Reyes and Gov. Carmencita Reyes.

The Marinduque environment disaster took place in March 1998 when the plug of the drainage tunnel of Marcopper mines failed resulting in the accidental spill of mine tailings into the Boac River.

The spill deposited about 1.6 million cubic meters of tailings into the river, creating serious damage to Marinduque's environment.

In September 2002, Marcopper's foreign owner Placer Dome Inc. committed $12 million for the rehabilitation of the Boac River and $1 million as compensation for the communities affected by the mine tailings spill.

However, the local government of Marinduque requested that a comprehensive study of the area be conducted before the rehabilitation takes place.

DFA to help probe death of Air Force officer

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Foreign Affairs offered on Wednesday to facilitate an investigation into the death of a Filipino military officer in war-torn Aceh in Indonesia in April this year.

Kaydee Latonero, widow of Air Force Maj. Rodolfo Latonero, said the DFA's commitment came days after Latonero's seven colleagues in a three-month peacekeeping assignment tried to dissuade her from pushing through with the investigation.

Latonero, a former spokesperson of the Philippine Military Academy here, died on April 11 in an Indonesian cove, becoming the first Filipino military officer to die while on a United Nations peacekeeping tour of duty.

Authorities there declared that Latonero died from accidental drowning, although a police autopsy report indicated that the major suffered intra-cranial hemorrhage before he drowned in Lampuook beach in Bana, Aceh.

Latonero's widow said military officials had misled her about her husband's death, and stressed that "a major cover-up" was in place to conceal details of an incident that the government feared might cause an international embarrassment.

But Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had assured Mrs. Latonero, through a letter from DFA coordinator Rowena Sanchez, that the government would seek Indonesia's intervention provided the widow revealed two "issues" that were confided to her by her husband shortly before his death.

Mrs. Latonero said her husband discussed a financial transaction that was being hatched among the peacekeeping teams hired by Henry Dunat Center (HGC), the United Nations-sanctioned civic organization detailed in Aceh.

The late Latonero, a member of PMA Class of 1985, had been receiving $100 a day for his three-month UN mission.

Mrs. Latonero said her husband also told her about the worsening relationship he was having with fellow peacekeepers from other countries, including Indonesia.

Either of these issues could explain why Latonero was killed, the widow told reporters here on Wednesday.

She said her suspicions were reinforced when she finally talked with the seven other members of Latonero's mission, including its leader.

"This was the first time I talked with (Maj. Latonero's Aceh colleagues) and they stuck to the story that he died from drowning. They also advised me not to pursue the case anymore. They told me 'things should not (go) this far anymore.' They wanted me to stop," Mrs. Latonero said.

The military also proceeded to insinuate that the major had been involved in illicit affairs while in Aceh, a fact that had offended the widow.

"I don't really care if (he had affairs). What will I do? Scold him? They have been raising this issue to keep me quiet, believing I will be embarrassed. But I want the truth . . . *Masyado kasing pogi ang asawa ko* (It's too bad my husband was very attractive)," she said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, had transmitted Latonero's case to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Mrs. Latonero said the government had been slow in responding to the autopsy report.

She said she had been trying to prevent two potential suspects from leaving Aceh. One of them was a Swede woman who was supposedly with the late Latonero on April 11, she said.

The widow said she planned to go to Aceh to file murder charges against those behind the death of her husband. But she said the government must provide her with more details about her husband's death.

According to pieces of evidence that had recently surfaced, the late Latonero had joined a group of friends for an afternoon swim.

Latonero supposedly swam toward a crashing wave, and was drawn in by the undertow. But details about the popular surfing cove indicated that no wave of such magnitude could have pulled the major underwater, Mrs. Latonero said.

Latonero's body was recovered 25 minutes after he disappeared in the water, an Aceh police report said. The report, however, did not mention the major's head fracture, as well as the signs of bruising around his neck and wrists.

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Letters *from* Manila

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Aleosan, North Cotabato

DEAR Friend, There is a reason for everything. Maybe, after these trials, blessings await you."

Joselle Basa, an elementary pupil of Arellano University in Manila, wrote this to an "unknown friend" in an evacuation center in Aleosan, North Cotabato. She was among the countless children in Manila who sent their toys and letters of support and comfort to the children of war in North Cotabato.

. Cristy, also an elementary pupil of another school in Manila, did not only send a card but her cellular phone number as well. She said: *"Kung natatakot ka, tawagan mo ako* (Whenever you're afraid, call me)."

Her card was received by 11-year-old Roland Ilagan, a Christian evacuee from Barangay Nalapaan in Pikit town. After reading the card, which was accompanied by a simple drawing, he immediately sat and started scribbling his "thank you" reply on a piece of paper and a few crayons.

"Kaibigan, thank you. *Mabuti naman kami dito* (Friend, thank you, we're fine here)," he simply wrote.

But the boy, who was obviously happy after receiving such unexpected letter from a stranger in Manila, borrowed a cellular phone and sent a text message to thank Cristy.

Cristy's reply: *"Walang anuman yon . . . sana nagustuhan ninyo ang aming mga handog sa inyo. Kumusta naman kayo diyan sa Mindanao?* (Don't mention it . . . hope you like our presents. How are you there in Mindanao?)"

Balik Kalipay

This exchange could possibly go on and on and develop into a "continuing effort" for children in Manila to listen and comfort the children of war in Mindanao, said Dr. Ernest Guevara, coordinator of the nongovernment organization Balik Kalipay.

The other week, around 300 Christian children read cards and letters and played toys sent to them by Manila children through the efforts of the Balik Kalipay. For four months now, the children and their families have stayed in an evacuation center in Aleosan.

The mothers said it was only at that time (when the letters and toys arrived) that their children gathered and played together again after the fighting between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and government soldiers subsided.

Guevara explained that the activity was important for the children of war, both Christian and Muslim, to forget the feeling of isolation.

"In the situation where the children evacuate, there is a feeling of helplessness and isolation. They had dropped their studies and, at the same time, there is almost nothing they can do in the evacuation center. There is always the feeling of fear and their interaction with each other is very limited," he said.

After the war erupted in Pikit, Guevara said, there had not been enough support given to children in the evacuation camps. While there is no actual neglect for children, the most vulnerable among the civilian victims of war, their emotions have not been given much importance.

Toys for peace

Because of this, he said, the campaign called "Bigas at Laruan para sa Kapayapaan" (Rice and Toys for Peace) was crafted.

This is a joint project of Balik Kalipay, Museo Pambata Foundation Inc., TOWNS Foundation, Kaisa para sa Kaunlaran Foundation, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, University of the Philippines' Center for Integrated Development Studies, Bantay Bata 163, Kids for Peace Foundation Inc., Philippine Business for Social Progress, and the Ateneo Office for Social Concerns and Initiative.

Guevara said their partners roamed around children's centers and schools, and forums in Manila, and rallied for support for the children of war in Mindanao.

The situation in Mindanao during and after the war was explained to the children and their parents, including the conflict's effect to other children in Mindanao.

"This campaign is a child-to-child approach. We asked them to give old toys, letters, and for the support not to be trivial, we also asked them to give food," Guevara said.

Often, he said, children are seen as passive recipients rather than active stakeholders and their participation in the dialogues is not given importance.

"Adults take it upon themselves to 'speak' for their children when they are the ones most vulnerable. Now, it is important that they see and feel that somebody wants to support them and is willing to listen to them—somebody who is their kind," he said.

Pen pals

Guevara said the "letter session" made a good reception among the children evacuees, although a certain degree of indifference was noted from the Muslim children.

"It's more positive. First, the children found an outlet. For all it's worth, it's through that outlet that they could share their feelings. And it breaks them from that isolation. It's all the more important because they have someone to talk to," he said.

CHILDREN at the evacuation center enjoy dancing during a play therapy session in Aleosan, North Cotabato.
PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

The Balik Kalipay facilitated the session. Their volunteers are encouraging the children to take extra effort to respond to their "pen pals."

"Their reply could be positive or negative. They can pour out their pain in their letters and that's not necessarily wrong. What is necessary here is that they have found an outlet," Guevara explained.

But while the letters spoke of compassion and support in general, there are those that showed harshness.

"They thought that the problem here is the Abu Sayyaf. There was a letter sender who said: *"Huwag kang matakot. Kumuha ka lang ng bato at batuhin mo ang* Abu Sayyaf (Don't be afraid. Get a rock and throw it at the Abu Sayyaf)."

Another letter, a volunteer said, hated and condemned the government for the Mindanao conflict. It said: *"Ang sasama ng mga sundalo* (The soldiers are bad)."

But these letters were never showed to the children evacuees.

Listening to emotions

The campaign kicked off early in May in the Pikit parish gymnasium where hundreds of Muslim evacuees are camped. The Balik Kalipay followed a totally different system because they have to translate and read the letters in Maguindanaon.

Then, Guevara said, they tried to listen to "emotions."

CHILDREN (above) share a toy provided by Balik Kalipay and write letters during a letter writing session (below).

"The difference was that Christian children are open when it comes to emotions, and Muslim kids are not," he said.

"At first, they were surprised that somebody they don't know had sent them letters. And while they were thankful, they barely showed affection. Maybe it will take time. And culturally, they are not that open to emotions and feelings," he added.

This month, thousands of children will be going to school again. In ordinary times, the school opening brings thrill and excitement to children. But Guevara feared it would be a different story for children in war-ravaged areas like Pikit.

"I think these children will be hesitant because of fear. There will be a sense that basic structures like schools and houses are not really existent," he said.

There are talks that the education department is planning to build makeshift classrooms in the central elementary school in Pikit to accommodate the evacuees. This system, Guevara said, would aggravate the situation of the children.

"We also promote ceasefire, all the better. We have this advocacy that 'this is what will happen to the children' if the Mindanao conflict will not be resolved," he said.

"And no matter what we do, no matter what the children in Manila do, it can only help so much."

Stop the kidnapping of teachers

DUGONG MINDANAW

Christine Godinez-Ortega

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country.—Ed.

THE URGENT appeal of teachers from the Mindanao State University's (MSU) main campus in Marawi City for protection from kidnappings must be addressed immediately and seriously.

Kidnappings are not new. These are as ancient as history and their motivations are as varied as they are inane. Horror stories abound about the kidnapped victims who, if released, seldom fight back because teaching is their way of life and making a living is an imperative.

In a letter to the MSU Board of Regents, the Christian teachers [and staff] have asked that police or military forces assist or replace the MSU Peacekeeping Force for a kidnap-free campus.

Such plea comes in the heels of the release of Prof. Rhede Nelson Manulat, the nth kidnapped victim from the MSU main campus.

MSU teachers, especially the Christians, believe kidnapping will continue and we must not wait for these bad elements to strike again knowing full well that they are never brought to justice. In this regard, the whole community led by local officials and tribal elders must take the responsibility to prevent future kidnappings of teachers.

In the world's history, teachers have taken risks and endured ignoble conditions to impart their knowledge to others. Teaching is a noble profession and the prophets in almost all religions in the world were basically teachers.

If only for these facts, everyone owes a debt of gratitude to teachers.

How sad that in these times, materialism has taken the better of some of us so that evil sectors like kidnappers believe that success is equal to the material possessions they can own and in whatever means these can be had.

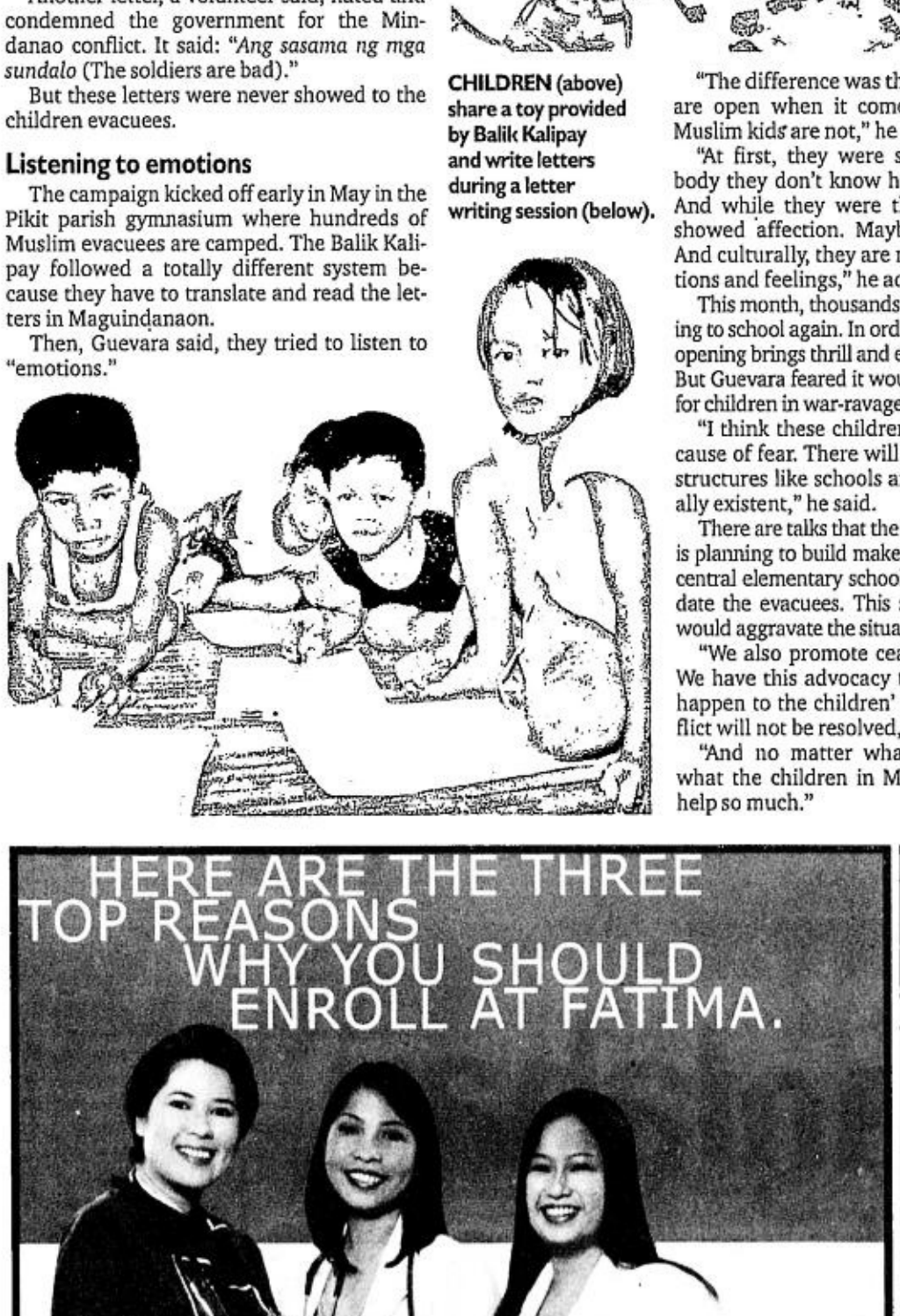
In fact, the euphemisms "under negotiations" and "board and lodging fees" have taken new meanings and have enlivened our vocabulary and added to coffee shop jokes.

In MSU, Christian teachers have been easy prey to kidnappers. At the same time, it is ironic that their expertise, experience and hard work have contributed much to the prestige of the university.

Christian teachers in a Muslim-dominated area should be lauded as part of the efforts toward a peaceful coexistence.

Understanding conflicting points, laying the conditions for the interaction between peoples of all faiths should become the norm toward productivity and better living, but only when there is security.

Let there be no greater nightmare for a teacher than to lose his record book. In this shrinking landscape of diversity, we might still surprise ourselves if we can all work together.



Electricity lights up ...

From page A1

have become more motivated in their studies than before when we were using kerosene lamps," said Dangli, adding that many had improved their grades toward the last quarter of the last school year.

Electronic gadgets

It also helped that the only electronic gadgets, which the Buneg Mabaka Tribal Organization (BMTO) had allowed villagers to acquire, were transistor radios and cassette players.

"It would have been a different scenario if each of us rushed to buy television sets," said Dangli, who also serves as BMTO treasurer. "But with the light bulbs, my pupils have since been thumbing through all the few books in our school. In fact, we need more reading materials for this new school year."

Before the facility was completed, each household in Buneg was spending an average of P76 for four liters of kerosene monthly.

In contrast, the BMTO, which oversees the facility, now collects a monthly bill of P20 from each household with 40-watt fluorescent lamps and 15-watt convenience outlet. The BMTO collects an additional P10 monthly for excess wattage.

The micro-hydropower facility has brought out the best in the Mabaka folk.

Inspired by a similar facility they saw in 1997 in Barangay Dulao in Malibcong, Abra, where they trace their roots, the Mabaka folk did their best to realize their dream of lighting up their own village.

UNDP funding

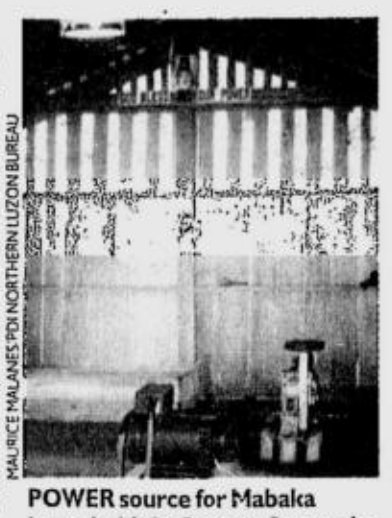
After tapping the expertise of the Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (Sibat), referred to them by a Catholic missionary in Abra, the Mabaka folk labored hard to make the project succeed.

Sibat, a Quezon City-based non-government organization specializing in rural "appropriate technology," among other things, sought some funding from the United Nations Development Program for the project.

But the Buneg people's culture of cooperation and unity spelled the difference, said Sibat engineer Frank Taguba, who supervised the project.

Unity as capital

To visitors who were eager to learn the secrets of the success of the Mabaka folk, Pablo Agagen, former BMTO president and now Nabuangan barangay chair, said that building the facility was not



MAURICE MALANES PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

POWER source for Mabaka households in Conner, Apayao is secured by a Higher Power.

as easy as hunting eels in the Nabuangan River.

"Many times some of us almost gave up, but we persevered if only to give something better to our children," he said. "And unity was our initial capital, which we showed when we had to carry on our shoulders heavy materials and equipment such as iron bars, cement, PVC and steel pipes, the generator and the turbine. Even the women and children helped haul stones and gravel."

As they continue to earn the admiration of neighboring communities, who also seek to build their own micro-hydro power facilities, the Mabaka folk continue to tell their story to people outside Apayao.

Rural folk and development workers from Rapu-Rapu, Albay, and from Palawan, for example, visited Buneg's micro-hydropower facility last month.

After a nine-hour climb to Buneg, the visitors learned from the Mabaka folk that while funding for a project was important, the unity and cooperation of the implementing community was crucial.

With their lights on at night and with no television shows to watch, not only school children read their books and review their lessons.

"I also read various manuals and books on primary health care every night," said Benigno Balani, a community volunteer health worker and BMTO vice president.

Anselmo Taclawan, barangay secretary, said he could work overtime at night, typing minutes and filing records of the village council.

Seeing his three grandchildren reading, Agagen said: "I never expected this forsaken community would ever see the light from a fluorescent bulb. But it happened. Given enough and proper education, my grandchildren can surely achieve more than what I saw in this lifetime."

Coalition of the willing offered free sex

From page A1

to US soldiers returning from the war in Iraq to thank them for risking their lives.

"We wanted to do something for our soldiers and this is the best we could do," said Dennis Hof, director of the house of ill repute.

The Moonlite Bunnyranch in the western state that is the only US territory where prostitution is partially legal is offering working girls' services free of charge to returning veterans, as well as huge discounts on other services.

The first 50 servicemen and women through the door will receive a sexy knockoff of their military-issued "TA-50" kits of personal hygiene items. Instead of toothbrushes and soap, Hof's kits contain condoms, lubricant, an adult magazine and a certificate for free sex.

Thirteen men and three women in uniform have shown up so far to claim their gifts. All told, the free and discounted sex will cost Hof about $50,000—a worthy sacrifice, he said.

"If we owned a Dairy Queen we would be giving away free ice cream, but ... we own the sex capital of the world. What better way is there to give back?" he said.

Hof hit on his unique gesture for honoring US troops when Bunnyranch star and former Playboy magazine centerfold Sunset Thomas was flooded with letters from the front lines.

"We were receiving about 20 letters a day," Hof said. "We thought, when these guys are done we'll do something special for them."

Soldiers can also enjoy discounts of up to 50 percent on a range of services at the ranch, including Viagra parties, "vibrator shows" and massage services.

The Tahoe Daily Tribune reported that anyone with current military identification is eligible for the offer.

After receiving an inquiry from a British soldier, the paper said Hof announced that the offer was open to all coalition forces.

Hof has made a name for himself by publicizing his business, including through a nationally televised documentary that vaunted the attributes of his sexy getaway spot. *Reuters, AFP*

Woman with 'green heart' braves MMDA's chopping axe

From page A1

Of course, everything growing on the islands will also have to go.

Cruz, a mother of two who lives in a village behind the Ateneo de Manila University and works as an administrative officer at the World Prep school just across from Miriam College, is in battle mode. For the past few days, she has been producing, not lush poetry, but barbed appeals against Fernando's latest campaign.

Part of an open letter she sent out on May 25 to Katipunan-based establishments reads: "It seems like the MMDA people have mindlessly considered trees as a major traffic nuisance ... Taking out this landscape from Katipunan is like depriving us of our right to clean air. We have taken the initiative to make our own greenbelt zone and we will continue to keep it this way."

In an interview last Friday, Cruz said she wept when she first learned from INQUIRER environment columnist Doris Nuyda that the MMDA wanted a "treeless Katipunan." She said she was sobbing when, on the phone with Odette Alcantara, an environment activist whom she counts as one of her inspirations, they talked about the day's grim news.

The MMDA had made a "haphazard" decision "without consulting the stakeholders of Katipunan," she said, adding:

"I tried to absorb it, but it was unthinkable for me. It was unacceptable."

Culture and character

Cruz said Fernando should have "considered the culture and character of the place" as a school zone where trees were valued for their cooling, beautifying and air-cleansing effects.

She said removing the tree-lined barriers would leave pedestrians, mostly students, more exposed to high-speed, open-highway traffic.

She pointed out that shade-giving trees also encouraged people to walk rather than use a car to get from one block to another.

Cruz, a communication arts graduate of the then Maryknoll College, has had no formal studies in forestry, environmental management or urban planning. But she is willing to debate any MMDA executive in defense of Katipunan's greenery.

These "innocent" plants, she noted, were being made to pay for the "real" roots of Katipunan's perennial bottleneck—undisciplined drivers, poor traffic management and rules enforcement, ambulant vendors, busted traffic lights, etc.

She said that Katipunan was already widened in the 1980s, and that Miriam College "took great pains" to save the older acacia trees on the service-road islands.

In the years that followed, the community planted more trees whenever possible, Cruz said. One of the more organized efforts toward this end was the Greening of Katipunan movement, launched in October 2001 with herself as one of the prime movers.

The movement set out to plant up to 420 saplings in a section of Katipunan between the C.P. Garcia intersection and the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym area. The project drew praise, she said.

The MMDA under Abalos cheered on the tree planters, providing logistical and maintenance support—and even a marching band during the launching program.

'Ridiculous'

Cruz recalled that when she was passing Katipunan one stormy afternoon a few months later, she told her driver Mang Cirilo to pull over so she could check whether the newly planted neem trees and yellow bells were withstanding the strong winds.

Then she did what some of her peers would later fondly describe as "ridiculous." She and Mang Cirilo managed to find some plastic string in the car, and with these "fastened" the plants' young, weak stalks to the iron railings for support.

The next day, the duo returned to the spot and replaced the string with metal wire.

"The wire still hold up to now," she said, pointing to her endangered green islands.

Asked where she got her "green heart," Cruz spoke of no dramatic epiphanies. "Maybe I was just influenced by my aunt when I was growing up in Caloocan. She likes to keep plants in the backyard—tomatoes, *kaimito, atis*," Cruz said.

She said she became concerned about the Katipunan landscape as a motorist who had been using the avenue daily since her college days.

The concern grew stronger when her family moved near the Ateneo in 1998. "Back then I could feel the heat even while inside the car. The area looked so barren," she said.

Her household practices solid waste management and composting. The Loyola Grand Villas homeowners association has also chosen her to chair its environment committee.

Malacañang

Cruz's lobbying—along with other Katipunan residents, Ateneo and Miriam officials, Alcantara and other prominent environment activists like the "running priest" Robert Reyes, actress Chin-chin Guitierrez, singer Jim Paredes, Ester Perez de Tagle, among others—has reached Malacañang.

Last Friday, the MMDA reportedly suspended its clearing operation on Katipunan pending the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo from her trip to South Korea and Japan.

But the agency had earlier declared that the operation enjoyed Ms Macapagal's approval. And Fernando seems unstoppable.

As of yesterday, Cruz was keeping a body count of the Katipunan trees so far uprooted by Fernando's men: "Six young banaba trees, three acacias, two camachiles, one talisay, two ficus trees, as well as 70 bougainvillea."

These were the same trees that she once portrayed in a poem as highly thankful beings who looked forward to growing with the help of humans.

The poem, written in Filipino, is titled "Himig ng mga Puno sa Katipunan (The Ballad of Katipunan's Trees)."

A rough translation of a stanza would read: "They could hardly contain their joy/ Now that people had taken notice, offering a helping hand./ They await that special day/When more company will arrive."

But it's uncertain whether this verse and the efforts of Cruz and her fellow "Katipuneros" will prove sharper than Fernando's chopping axe.

Cruz said she and her group are bracing for a longer fight with the MMDA. "This is a big issue for us that has taken us up to Malacañang, and I hope Bayani will soon realize this," she said.

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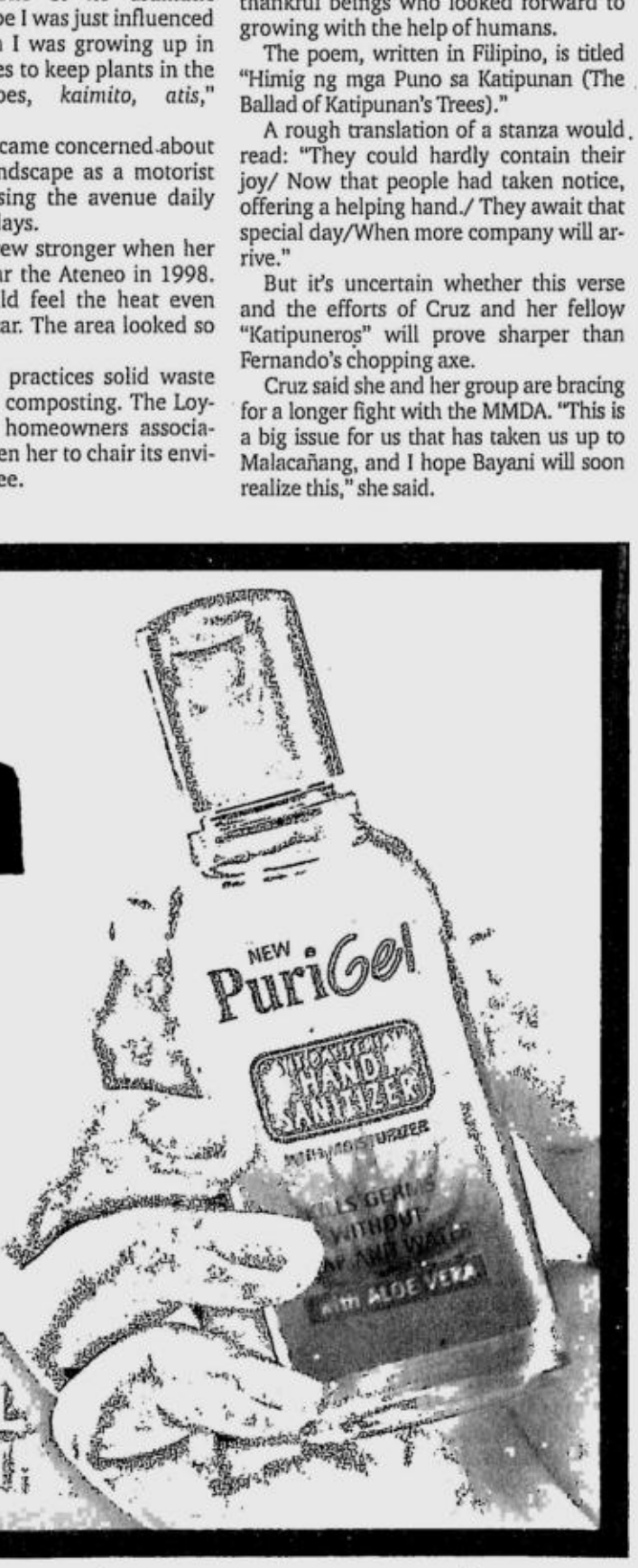

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Army still holding Ulla

From page A5

he had the chance.

There had been speculation that the abduction of 21 people, mostly foreign tourists, from Sipadan was an "inside job," and Ulla had been suspected of being one of those who tipped off the bandits about the presence of tourists there.

At the time of the kidnapping on April 23,2000, Ulla worked at the Sipadan resort as a handyman, refilling scuba tanks, running errands and cooking food.

Also abducted were a South African couple, three Germans, three French, two Finns, nine Malaysian resort workers and another Filipino worker.

The hostages were taken to Jolo, which is close to the border with Malaysia. Most of the other hostages—specifically the foreign tourists—were released after several months in exchange for millions of dollars, reportedly paid by Libya.

It was unclear why the Abu Sayyaf held on to Ulla.

One account said a rebel faction which did not get a share of the ransom seized him from the guerrillas who had raided Sipadan.

'Not true'

Joy said that because of these speculations, Roland will have a lot of adjustments to make.

"He has to work hard to erase the stigma...brought about by (insinuations) that he is an Abu Sayyaf member. I know it's not true. He could never become an Abu Sayyaf," she said, trying to hold her emotions in check.

Joy said she broke into tears when she learned on Friday that Roland was finally free.

"I was not expecting him to come home anymore," Joy said.

She said their family will help Roland adjust to his newly found freedom.

"We will help him. If he sees how big his sons have grown, he will become comfortable. I guess that's what he was worrying about all this time," Joy said.

She said she told their 5-year old son, Jay-ar, that his father would be coming home soon.

Jay-ar has been suffering from tuberculosis. His brother Raffy, 3, has a fever due to a fractured bone.

The Ullas have two sons.

Joy noted that Jay-ar did not show interest in what she told him.

Still, Joy said, she was excited at the prospect of being reunited with Roland.

She said things had become difficult for the family since Roland was abducted. She and her children had to move from the house of one relative to another to survive.

"I can't recall how many times we had to move just so my children could eat. I could not support my children from doing laundry alone," Joy said.

When Roland is finally released, Joy said, "everything will be fine for us."

"We can start working to rebuild our lives," she said. *With a report from AP*

Sex raps hound Bacani

From page A1

to leave the diocese if necessary for her good and I am now taking ample time for rest and prayer in solitude," he added.

Bacani, born on Jan. 16, 1940, was ordained into the priesthood on Dec. 21, 1965. He became a bishop on April 12, 1984. Today, he is more popularly known as the spiritual adviser of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

But in an interview over Radio Veritas last night, Bacani denied the accusation he had sexually harassed his secretary, saying in Filipino: "To all those seeking to destroy me, be careful since this might just be a 'bum steer,'" referring to a false story in newspaper parlance.

"Don't believe this news. Tell them to have pity on me. Don't believe the accusations. This can never happen to me. It pains me," he said.

Bacani, however, admitted he was going on leave to Kansas, USA, "to take care of my mother and seek treatment for my diabetes from my doctor-brother." He did not say when he was leaving or when he would be back.

"His case is similar to that of Archbishop Crisostomo Yalung of Antipolo, who resigned last year after it was learned he had two children with a woman in her twenties," the CBCP source said.

Yalung resigned from his Antipolo post but not from the priesthood and is now reportedly in the United States. The woman and their children are supposedly still in the Philippines.

Earlier, there had been talk Bacani was about to resign because of his secretary's complaint, which was about to hit the headlines.

His letter to his flock and his denial on Radio Veritas were apparently meant to head off the adverse publicity.

In his letter, Bacani told his followers "As I leave you, I beg the Lord again for mercy. I also ask pardon of Mother Church and of all of you, and my secretary who felt hurt."

"These past two months have been most difficult, and would seem to have closed some doors. But as we sang together recently, 'God will make a way where there seems to be no way.' I am confident that God will make this world together unto the good of all of us if we but turn to Him in love."

'Extraordinary situation needed extraordinary solution'

From page A1

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) withdrew their support from President Estrada and pledged their allegiance to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA). From that point on, it became clear to me that President Estrada could not effectively govern the country, but that Vice President Arroyo could not legally lead it either. In other words, from that fateful afternoon, there was no effectively functioning government in the country.

I was aghast at the situation and could not rest during the evening of Jan. 19. I must have fallen asleep about 1 a.m. Upon waking up at 4 a.m. on Jan. 20, I immediately switched on our bedroom TV. An Edsa panel was being interviewed. The media host announced that Cardinal Sin, through Msgr. Socrates Villegas, was pleading with the Edsa rallyists not to march towards Mendiola, where the pro-Erap partisans were encamped. Fr. Robert Reyes, a panelist, unequivocably supported the Cardinal's call. But the leaders of the militant groups announced they were proceeding to Mendiola at 6 a.m., unless President Estrada resigned by then.

HISTORIC day, Jan. 20, 2001: Chief Justice Davide swears in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the 14th President of the Philippines at the Edsa Shrine.

The Grim Scenario

I was worried that if the two groups clashed, there would be violence and bloodshed, especially if the Edsa militants made good their vow to storm the presidential residence. President Estrada could not stop them because the government machinery had broken down. The military and the police would not obey him. Neither could Mrs. Arroyo take over the reins of government, as there was—at least, theoretically—a legally recognized President. If Mrs. Arroyo acted, she would be unconstitutionally usurping presidential prerogatives. Indeed, she would be installing a revolutionary government. On the other hand, military adventurers could mount a coup d'etat and rule by force. In either case, the Constitution would be obliterated and all constitutional offices including the Presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court would be abolished. Surely, the fragile economy would collapse and the nation thrown into civil strife.

I prayed and reflected upon this grim scenario. I concluded that the only way to avert violence, chaos and bloodshed and to save our democratic system from collapse was to have Mrs. Arroyo sworn in as President. After prayer and reflection, I summoned the courage to call up Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. about 5:30 a.m. to explain to him my apprehensions. I proposed that, to save the Constitution, he should swear in GMA by 12 noon of that day.

The Chief Justice's Response

In normal times, the Supreme Court and its members are passive government officials who act only when a proper petition or request is filed. I thought, however, that the scenario at that point was not normal. Far from it. In fact, the country was faced with an extraordinary situation that demanded an extraordinary solution. Only one state institution, the Supreme Court, had the credibility and the moral authority to avert a governmental catastrophe. And there was only one person who could steer the country from armed confrontation and upheaval: Chief Justice Davide. His outstanding performance as presiding officer of the impeachment court made him—per a scientific poll survey—the most trusted Filipino.

To my delight, Chief Justice Davide immediately agreed to my proposal. He asked me to announce over radio and television his intention to administer the presidential oath to the then Vice President.

When a justice heard the announcement, he telephoned the Court questioning the proposal. So, the Chief Justice decided to call immediately all the members of the Court to an emergency session. After an animated discussion on the various constitutional aspects of the situation, all twelve justices present—three were out of town—eventually backed the announced swearing in, provided GMA submitted a formal written request for it. They even went to the Edsa Shrine to witness the oath-taking ceremony.

The Court Decision

From this dramatic, extraordinary event of Edsa 2, the rest is now legal history. On Jan. 22, 2001, Monday, the Supreme Court, by a unanimous vote of all its 15 members, passed a Resolution "to confirm the authority" of the Chief Justice to swear in GMA as "President of the Philippines."

On March 2, 2001, the Court promulgated its 13-0 Decision in Estrada v. Desierto and Estrada v. Arroyo, upholding the legitimacy of the Arroyo ascension to the presidency. Only thirteen voted inasmuch as Chief Justice Davide and I inhibited ourselves from the case because of our active participation in the swearing-in ceremony. I was prepared to submit in writing my own opinion on these cases, but yielding to the request of Estrada, I instead recused myself voluntarily. At the proper time, however, I hope to be able to present my own view.

On April 3, 2001, the Court, by the same definitive vote of 13-0, denied with finality President Estrada's Motion for Reconsideration. Thus, it put to rest the constitutionality of the Arroyo government.

Four theories

While the Court was unanimous in ruling that GMA was the legitimate, constitutional and permanent—not merely "acting"—President, and that Joseph Ejercito Estrada was no longer Chief Executive, the justices were not united in their reasons for their common conclusion. To understand the ruling, it is important to bear in mind Article VII, Section 8 of the Constitution, which covers succession to the Presidency and which, in part, reads as follows:

"Sec. 8. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term. x x x."

The various theories used by the justices to support the constitutional legitimacy of the Arroyo ascension to the Presidency can be summed up into four, as follows:

1. Resignation Theory

A majority of the members of the Court reasoned that Estrada had resigned and, thus, Vice President Arroyo was constitutionally empowered to take over. Although Estrada had not executed any written resignation, "the totality of prior, contemporaneous and posterior facts and circumstantial evidence" unmistakably showed that a resignation had in fact taken place. This view was held by six justices: Jose A.R. Melo, Reynato S. Puno, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Minerva P. Gonzaga-Reyes and Sabino R. de Leon. In addition, Justice Arturo B. Buena concurred "in the result" of Justice Puno's ponencia, but did not give any specific reason for legitimizing GMA's rise to the presidency.

2. Permanent Disability

Under this theory, Estrada was permanently disabled from discharging his duties and functions as Chief Executive; thus, GMA succeeded him legally. This view was shared by Justices Josue N. Bellosillo and Vicente V. Mendoza. Justice Bellosillo opined that permanent disability "cannot realistically be given a restrictive and impractical interpretation as referring only to physical or mental incapacity, but must likewise cover other forms of incapacities of a permanent nature, e.g., functional incapacity." Justice Mendoza, on the other hand, clarified that what enabled GMA "to assume the presidency was the fact that there was a crisis, nay a vacuum, in the executive leadership which made the government rife for seizure by lawless elements."

3. Abandonment

Justice Jose C. Vitug held the opinion that President Estrada practically abandoned the presidency, an act equivalent to resignation. He explained that abandonment "connotes the giving up of the office although not attended by the formalities normally observed in a resignation."

4. Reality Theory

Four magistrates—Justices Santiago M. Kapunan, Bernardo P. Pardo, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez—believed that Estrada had not resigned or voluntarily left his office. However, the stark reality was that Mrs. Arroyo had actually taken over the Presidency and was recognized as the constitutional incumbent by Congress, the international community and the Filipino people. In the words of Justice Gutierrez, "this Court has to declare as a fact what in fact exists. Respondent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is the de jure President of the Republic of the Philippines."

In his Foreword to my latest book, "A Centenary of Justice," Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. called this unanimous Decision of the Supreme Court "a watershed event of truly momentous proportions that would be cast in concrete at the portals of constitutionalism." He added that "his and my recusal has further served to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law." Indeed, the Supreme Court descended from its lofty perch on Mt. Olympus to avert civil strife and to save our constitutional system from collapse.

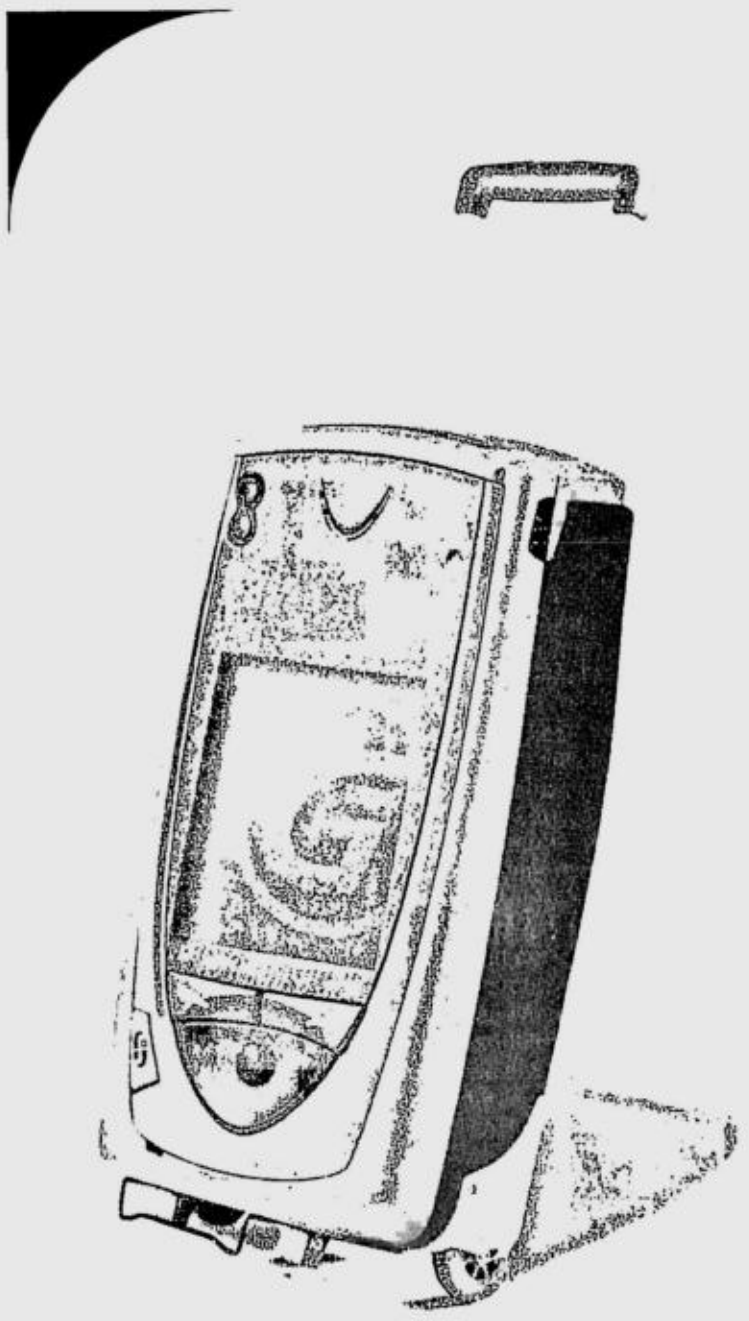
Epilogue

Before I end this piece, let me articulate my faith that Edsa 2 was indeed a confluence of events planned in heaven. I do not have the time to relate all these events. Let me just say that, frankly, I am still wondering up to now how I had summoned the courage to propose the oath-taking of Mrs. Arroyo even when she had not yet requested it, and even when President Estrada was still in Malacañang; and why Chief Justice Davide immediately agreed to it, even prior to consultation with the other justices.

The Chief Justice and I both knew that the Supreme Court was a passive institution and that, ordinarily, justices did not take active part in political events. The Court's extraordinary action to resolve an extraordinary situation can only be explained as the work of the Holy Spirit on both of us and, in fact, on all the key players of EDSA 2. It was the same Spirit that animated us to do what we did, not because of conventional human wisdom, but because of faith instilled by the Lord.

Let me add that the Chief Justice and I have the same habit of reading Scriptures as the source of God's daily instructions on how we should do our work. In my case, I take my bearings from the daily Mass readings. But in the case of Chief Justice Davide, he cuts the Bible and reflects on the page that opens. On that fateful morning of Jan. 20, he woke up as usual at 3:30 a.m., prayed, cut his Bible and reflected. On that morning, the Holy Book opened to Isaiah 62, which spoke of the "Restoration of Zion." As he prayed and meditated, he was struck by the unmistakable impression that he should act to restore Zion; that is, to bring normalcy to the country. Hence, when I called him up at 5:30 a.m., he was spiritually and psychologically ready for my then "weird-sounding" proposal.

Finally, you may want to be reminded that the gospel reading for Jan. 20, 2001 was taken from the third chapter of Mark, Verses 20-21, in which our Lord was accused by his own relatives of being "out of his mind"; and, in Verse 22, by the scribes of being "possessed by Beelzebub, the prince of demons," because the crowds were so mesmerized by his teachings that they refused to eat. Indeed, in our community—whether it be of people who are supposed to love us like our relatives, or of those who hate us, like our never-satisfied critics—we could be misunderstood, even thought of as insane, when we espouse unorthodox ideas and actions. But we should always stand fast and take courage, especially when our eccentricity is born of faith that transcends human wisdom...



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003

METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

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SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 9 8 1 3 0 2

6/42 Luzon
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Cops given Bible to read, carry

Lina says lawmen should realize God's importance in their work

By Alcuin Papa

FIRST it was drug tests for cops. Now the Department of Interior and Local Government wants Metro Manila policemen to read and, if necessary, carry the Bible in their work.

DILG Secretary Joey Lina yesterday gave free Bibles to members of the Central Police District in an apparent bid to counter the reported negative effects of the mandatory drug tests policemen are required to undergo.

Lina said they hoped that the free Bibles would "uplift the spiritual morale of our policemen in the way of God."

"Its distribution is not a gimmick. It is for the cops to realize the importance of God in their work," Lina said.

The other day, members of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association expressed resentment over the drug tests.

"Why are we being obliged to undergo this?" asked SPO2 Virgo Villareal, vice president of the policemen's organization, adding the requirement has dragged down the morale of policemen.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, has ordered 17,000 Metro policemen to take the drug tests.

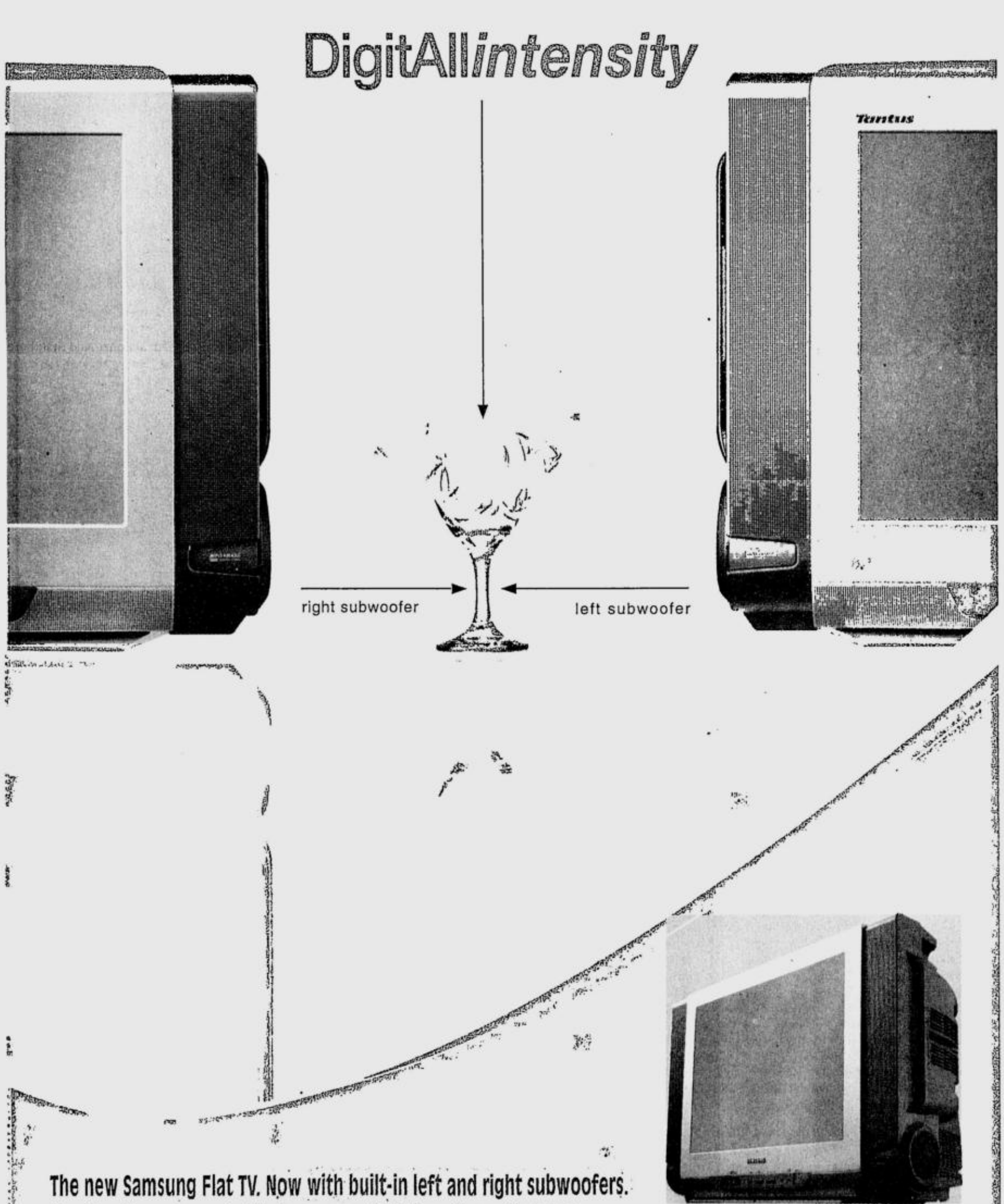
The free Bibles were distributed after the CPD's Saturday inspection of policemen.

CPD head Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro said he hoped the Bibles would "heartily inspire our cops to magnify their work as police officer and draw them close to God as they do their service to the people."

"Now that the Bible is in the hands of our policemen, I admonish them to read its contents and be a good follower of God regardless of religion," Castro said.

Lina also announced the formation of Strike Force Nehemiah, which would implement a strategy plan for policemen to read the Bible regularly and to make its teachings "more meaningful and spiritually uplifting."

DigitAllintensity



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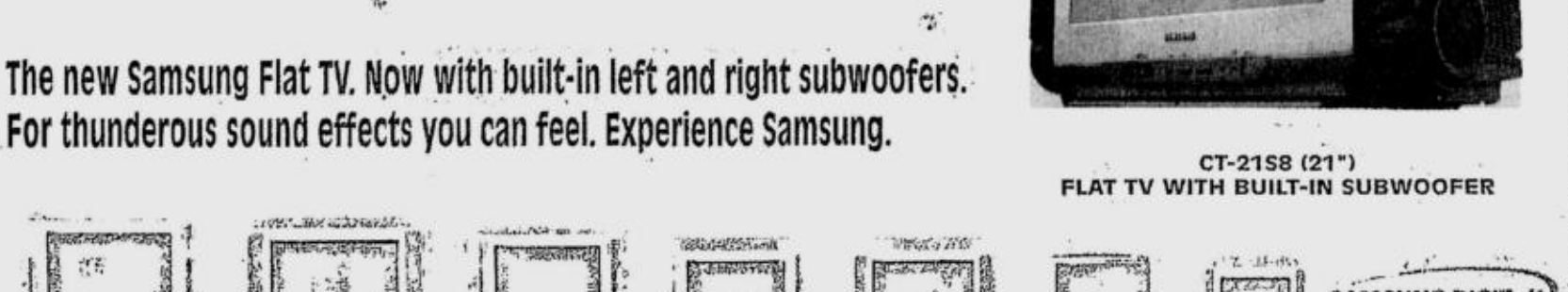

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Old woman didn't live to enjoy refund

By Alcuin Papa

AN ELDERLY woman who had just gotten her refund from the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) was run over by a passenger bus yesterday in Quezon City.

The victim was identified as Josefina del Rosario, 77, a retired government employee and a resident of Bago Bantay, Quezon City.

Del Rosario died on the spot due to broken bones and head injuries.

According to a report of PO3 Reynaldo Taroy, the accident occurred at around 8:30 a.m. near the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Edsa in Muñoz.

The report said that Del Rosario had just come from a Meralco branch in the area where she claimed her refund and was crossing Edsa on her way home.

Before she could reach the other side, however, she was ran over by a Del Carmen Bus (PWG-237) on its way to Baclaran.

The driver of the bus, identified as Winston Flordeliz, 34, of Barangay Pulang Bato, Bulacan, was immediately arrested after the incident.

According to a witness, Del Rosario was hit first by a car. The impact threw the victim into the path of the bus. The bloodied body of the victim ended up under the bus.

The report did not say how much the refund was.

Mayors want drug tests on city workers

By Tina Santos

IF THE mayors of northern Metro Manila would have their way, they want also their local employees to undergo the mandatory drug tests.

Mayors Rey Malonzo of Caloocan, Amado Vicencio of Malabon, and Toby Tiangco of Navotas told the INQUIRER in separate interviews that they support the drive against illegal drugs and also the holding of drug tests.

"This will help us not only to determine if there are government employees, particularly those who are under my administration, who are hooked on drugs, but also take the necessary action," Tiangco said.

But he said he has yet to find out if the law would allow the local government to implement such measure.

Malonzo said the drug test would allow Caloocan city employees and officials to set an example for the people.

"I myself regularly undergo drug test. I think everybody in the government should, from the top rank down to the barangay officials," he said.

Malonzo added he favored drug tests among high school and college students but said the city government does not have enough funds.

"I think subjecting the students to drug tests is a good idea but the expenses would cripple us given the P200 to P300 cost for every individual's test," he said.

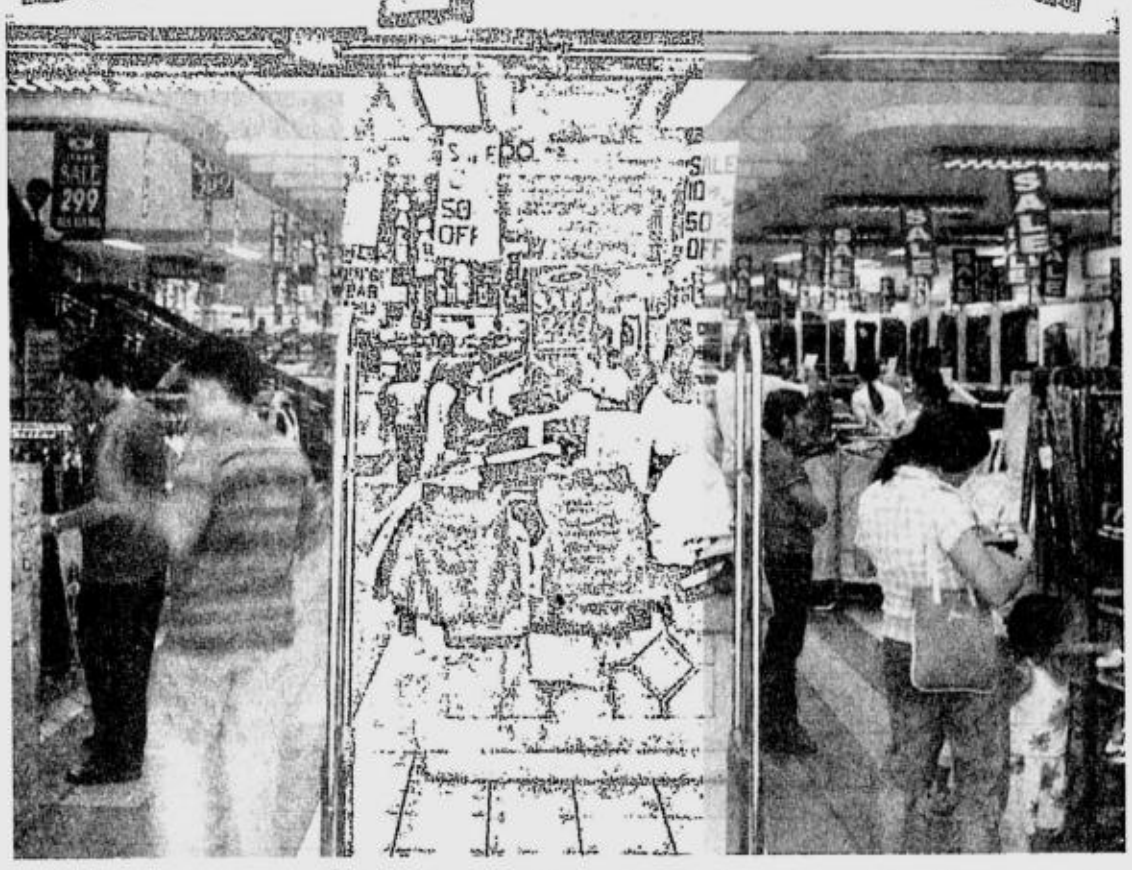
Vicencio, for his part, said they have been conducting random drug testing on students and contractual employees during the past years. He added that he sees nothing wrong if the law requires it.

But Reps. Magtanggol Gunigundo (Valenzuela) and Ricky Sandoval (Malabon-Navotas) have expressed reservations over the anti-drug campaign.

Gunigundo said there should be clear implementing guidelines that would have to be followed when the drug tests are administered.

For his part, Sandoval said he does not favor mandatory drug testing because it does not give the actual picture whether one is hooked on drugs or not.

BACK 2 SCHOOL



LIKE temples calling on the faithful, bookstores and school supply shops are swarming with parents and children who are out to make those last-minute purchases before school opens next week. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

17,000 lawmen to secure schools

By Leila Salaverria, Tina Santos and Margaux Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office would be deploying its entire force of 17,000 men to secure Metro Manila schools and campuses where millions of students are expected to flock for the June 16 school opening.

In a statement, NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said he had also coordinated with members of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators, under lawyer Ramon Bergado, as well as barangay officials to protect the schools in their respective areas.

"The security guards and the barangay officials are potent force multipliers to beef up the ranks of the police," Velasco said. "Their number is formidable."

The Western Police District under Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong has already assigned men to cover the campuses in the University Belt in Manila.

Bulaong also said that they had formed a campus security committee, composed of policemen, school authorities and barangay officials, to guarantee the safety of students especially those studying in Chinese schools.

In Quezon City, the Central Police District under Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro has moved to secure campuses, particularly in the Katipunan area where most of the largest universities in the capital region are located.

The NCRPO has coordinated with the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Metro Manila Development Authority, to secure bus terminals, airports, roads and seaports for the influx of students from the provinces.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios on Friday vowed to complete the MMDA's traffic improvement projects in time for the school opening.

Vergel de Dios said the no-crossing scheme would be implemented immediately on three Quezon Avenue intersections—Examiner Street, West Avenue and Scout Chuatoco.

Under the scheme, vehicles coming from the roads mentioned would not be allowed to cross Quezon Avenue.

The MMDA would also apply the same scheme at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and the University Avenue.

While the controversy over the removal of trees on Katipunan Avenue rages, the no-crossing scheme would be implemented on the intersection of Katipunan and the road leading to the La Vista Subdivision, Vergel de Dios said.

In Manila, Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. on Friday said that he is counting on the cooperation of the police to ensure the well-being of the city's 500,000 students. He added that he has also enlisted the help of the traffic bureau to guarantee order on the first day of school.

Mayors of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela yesterday assured parents that security measures are in place for the opening of classes.

METROBRIEFS

Water cutoff

RESIDENTS of F. Aguilar Street in Caloocan City will have no water for 8 hours starting 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10. Maynilad Water said the water service interruption would pave the way for the interconnection of newly laid 150-mm pipeline to the existing 150-mm pipeline on F. Aguilar corner Zapote streets. Affected customers are advised to store water good for the duration of the water service interruption.

Slain in bar rumble

ANOTHER videoke rumble has claimed the life of a patron. Taguig investigators said Real Abella, 21, of Mauling Creek, Camp Bagong Diwa, Lower Bicutan, was gunned down by three men inside a videoke bar on M.L. Quezon Avenue. Police said Abella was drinking with his friends at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday when one of his companions got into an argument with a member of another group at the bar. The argument led to the shooting, police said. Abella was taken to Taguig-Pateros District Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

Killed in ambush

ALEJANDRO Lado, 42, was ambushed in his Taguig neighborhood on Friday night. Police said unidentified gunmen opened fire on Lado, a resident of Sitio Masigasig, Western Bicutan, near the victim's house. Lado was declared dead on arrival at the Rizal Medical Center, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

Shot in Makati

TWO armed men were looking for a fight in Makati City yesterday and dared Ricardo Licambra, 18, to put up his fists. But the armed suspects, identified only as Robin and Alvin, got upset when Licambra and his friends turned down the suspects in front of a burger joint on Floraville corner Manzanas streets at around 2 a.m., police said. As Licambra's group was about to turn and leave, one of the suspects took out a homemade shotgun and fired, hitting the victim. Licambra, a resident of Barangay Rizal, is now receiving treatment at the Makati Medical Center, SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal said. *Leila Salaverria*

Suspects identified

QUEZON City investigators have identified at least two of the eight men who allegedly robbed a bank in Novaliches on Friday. Police now have sketches of the suspects, based on witnesses' description. One of those who were able to provide an accurate description was a security guard who was wounded in the shootout, police said. The suspects robbed the Asia Trust Bank inside the Novaliches Plaza Mall and took around P3 million in collections. *Alcuin Papa*

Malabon kids to make do with 60 less classrooms

WITH barely a week before classes start, Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio is becoming annoyed over the delay of construction of several school buildings and classrooms in the city.

Vicencio accused his political rivals of engaging in "too much politicking," which has affected his plans for the city, including the construction of 60 additional classrooms needed by children in the city.

Thousands of students, particularly those in Santiago Syjuco High School in Barangay Ibaba, Catmon High School and Panghulo High School, will have to make do with cramped classrooms, the mayor said.

"I pity them, they deserve better facilities and classrooms," Vicencio said.

The mayor said they are now fasttracking all the delayed projects, including the school buildings.

However, construction might not be completed when classes open on June 16, Vicencio said.

Opposition councilor Ed Torres, one of the city officials who supported the implementation of the preventive suspension order on the mayor, denied that he and his colleagues were "politicking."

Torres said he was just doing his job and what he thinks is right. *Tina Santos*

Fed up with garbage, Malonzo gets tough on barangay men

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Rey Malonzo yesterday threatened to file administrative and criminal charges against barangay officials responsible for the garbage that has been piling up in city streets.

Malonzo said he got upset when he noticed mounds of trash in the streets while he was on his way to city hall.

"I have already called their (barangay officials) attention earlier, but it seems that my instructions have fallen on deaf ears," the irate mayor said. "I will not tolerate their defiance this time."

He said that while it is the duty of the barangay leaders to keep their respective areas clean, it is everyone's responsibility to tend to their garbage.

Malonzo said that he is tired of hearing about barangay officials who are not doing their jobs despite his efforts to keep the city clean.

"I'm fed up," Malonzo said. "The city government has allotted a sizeable budget for waste management, so I think it's time to punish negligent community elders and stubborn residents (for violating) the law."

Citing Republic Act 9003, or the waste management act, Malonzo said barangay officials are required to implement waste segregation aside from collecting and recycling garbage.

The city, meanwhile, is in charge of hauling and disposing of the collected garbage, he said.

He directed the city's garbage monitoring team to take photos of areas with piles of garbage so that it can be used as evidence in the filing of charges against erring barangay officials.

Even pet owners in the city have been warned. Malonzo said that there are penalties for owners who are not responsible enough to tend to their pets' droppings.

Caloocan information officer Susan de Leon said they have already stepped up information dissemination on proper waste management by conducting seminars in the city.

Earlier, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando proposed a contest to determine the 20 dirtiest communities in Metro Manila.

The "winning" barangay official would be suspended or dismissed from office.

Cops have standing orders not to sit in trains

By Luige del Puerto

THERE is now an order for Manila policemen to give way to passengers whenever they avail of free rides in Metro Rail Transit trains, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

"Remain standing while riding the train, ready to respond and provide assistance should the need arise," according to Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, operations head of the Western Police District.

In a memorandum he handed out early this week, Ortilla said that he hopes to deter possible police abuses inside trains.

Ortilla also reminded WPD policemen to be always in complete uniform, with the "Manila's Finest" patch prominently displayed on their left shoulders when taking a free ride.

Ortilla directed the cops to step out of the train every time it stops to assist the passengers.

"Extend courtesy to passengers and MRT employees all the time," he said in the memo said.

Last year, policemen were told to always address a civilian with "sir or ma'am" whenever answering or asking questions.

This formed part of a comprehensive effort by the national police leadership to win back the people's trust.

The National Capital Region Police Office earlier signed an agreement with the MRT-3 management to allow "qualified" members of the metropolitan police force to avail of free rides.

No more than six officers are allowed to board a coach and, whenever inside, an officer must stand near the front or back door.

Mapsa enforcer accused of theft

SPO2 ULYSSES A. Catalino of the Western Police District on Friday accused a member of the Makati Public Safety (Mapsa) unit of stealing his jewelry stowed in his jeep after it was towed.

Catalino, 51, also a professor at the Philippine College of Criminology, told investigators that when he went to claim his owner-type jeep from the impounding area, he could not find his clutch bag where he kept P34,000 worth of jewelry.

Officer-on-case PO2 Rody Tallud said Catalino had gone to the National Police Commission office in Makati at noon on Friday to submit documents and parked his jeep on Jupiter Street. But when he came out of the office, he discovered to his horror that his vehicle had been towed.

He then went to the Makati Towing Center on Yakal Street and spoke with Mapsa member Glenn Ellema. Catalino told police that he was only made to pay P600 instead of the usual P1,000.

However, when Catalino checked out his jeep, he could not find his clutch bag. He asked around, but none of the Mapsa personnel were any help, he said.

Catalino then went to the Makati Police to lodge a complaint. Catalino identified Ellema as the chief suspect for it was he who had signed the victim's ticket for the towed vehicle, Tallud said. *Leila Salaverria*

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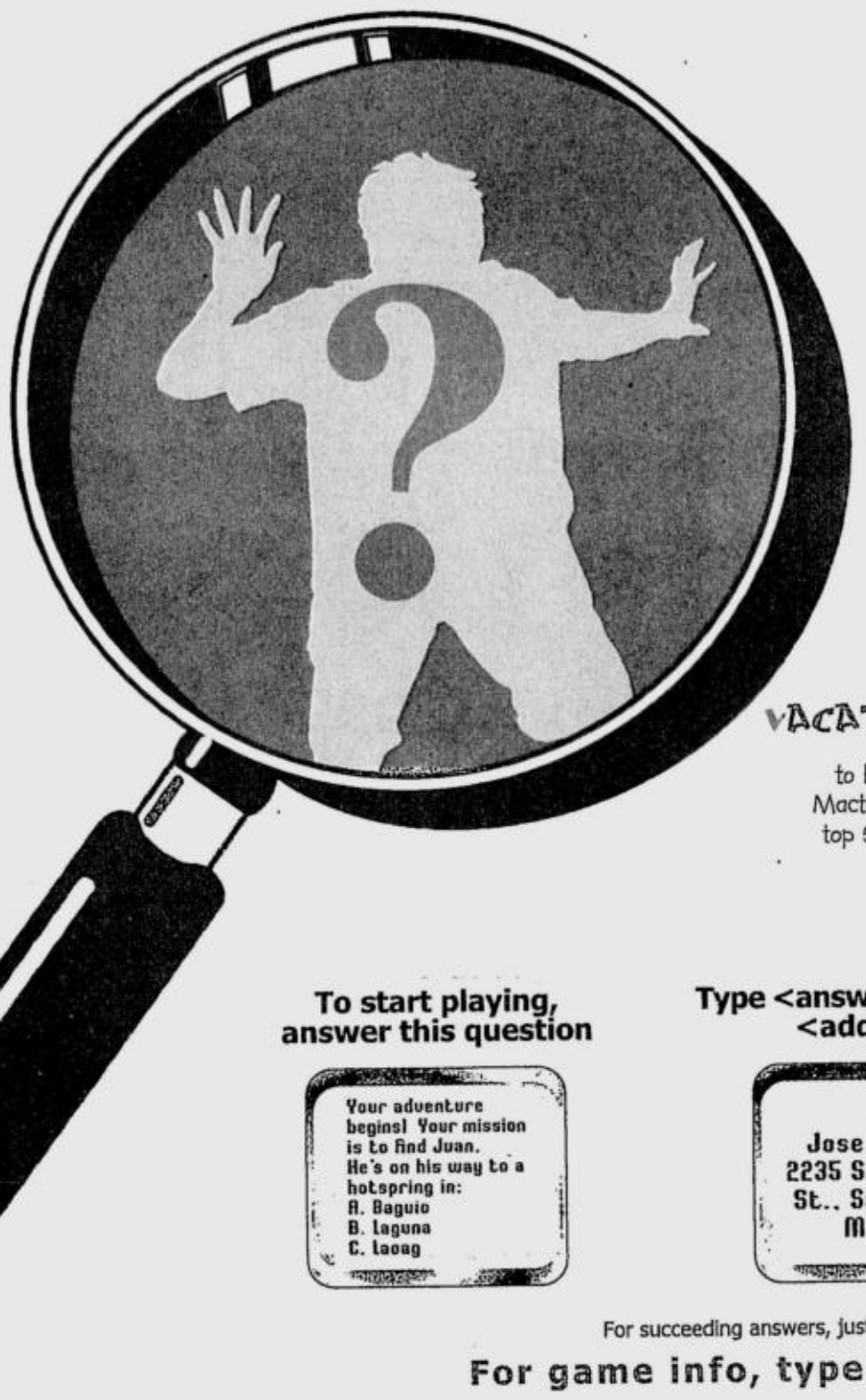

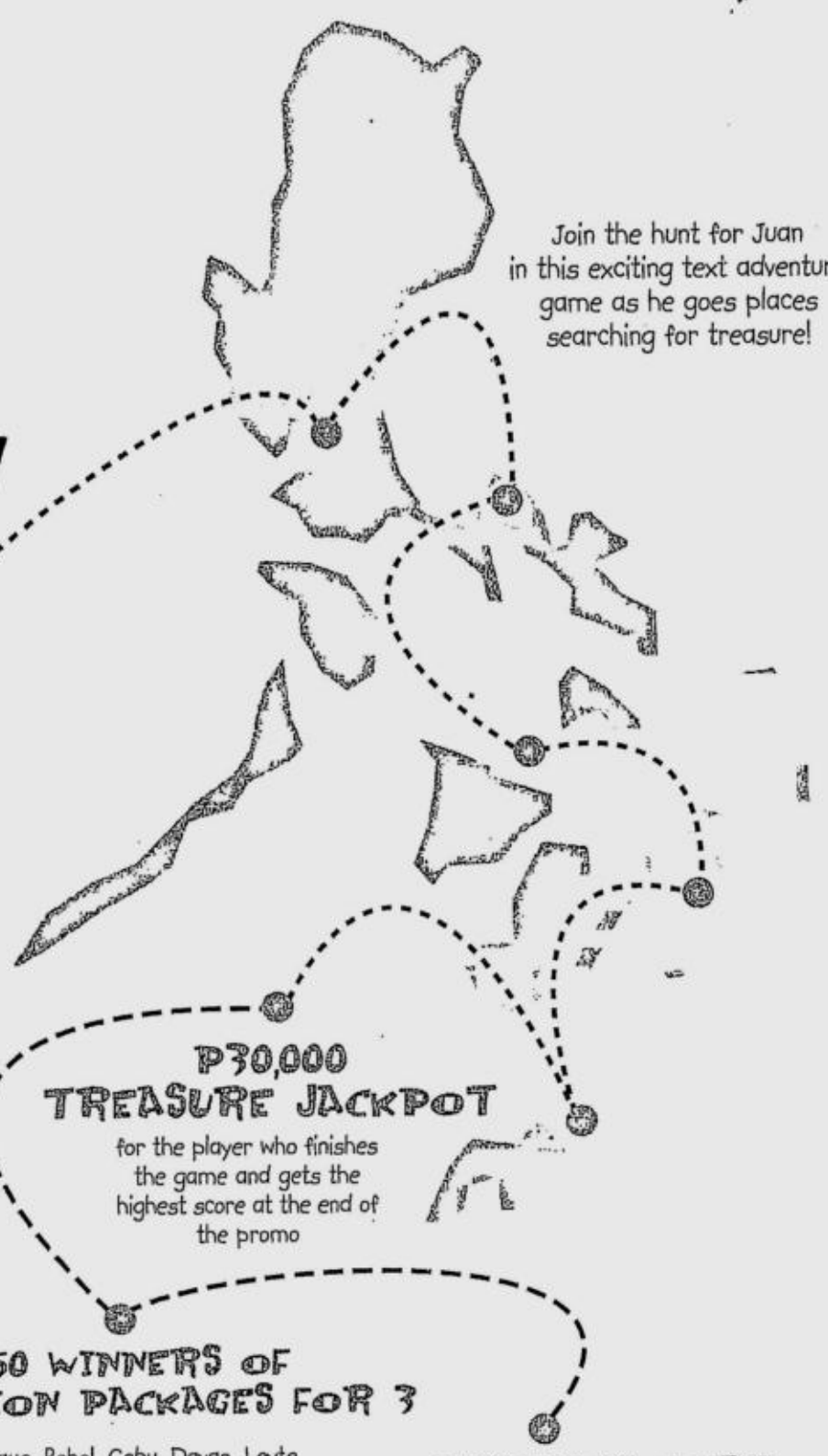

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8. The player receives a response from the system if the answer is right or wrong.
9. Regardless of right or wrong answer, player receives the next clue to the next destination or player receives the next trivia question.
10. Player earns a point only if he/she is able to answer correctly.
11. To view additional clues, player can type CLUES.
12. To answer succeeding trivia questions or guess next destinations, player types either "A" or "B" or "C" depending on his/her answer and sends it to 2261. No need to include Name & Address in the answer after registration.
13. To quit, type "OFF". To get back into the game and for other game info, type 'JUAN' then send to 2261.
14. Player has to answer the trivia question correctly or guess next destination correctly to earn a point.
15. The objective of the player is to correctly guess the next destination or answer trivia question correctly to earn the most points for a chance to win.
16. The top player with the most number of points for the day will win in the daily category.
17. The top 50 players at the end of the game shall win the grand prize.
18. The player who finishes the game with the highest score for the entire game shall win a cash prize of Php30,000.00 as bonus prize. Only players who will finish the game or reach the end of the game shall be qualified in this bonus prize category.
19. In case of a tie for the top highest pointers in the daily, bonus or grand prize category, the player who reached the score first based on the logged time of receipt of last answer for a specific cut-off date shall win.
20. The game will run for 6 weeks beginning 1 June 2003 at 12:01am until 12 July 2003 at 12:00pm. Cut-off period to play the game is 12:00pm of 12 July 2003.
21. A subscriber can only win once in the daily prize category.
22. Daily winners of the previous week will be determined every Monday at Wholesale Travel Club., 5/F SMS Bldg., 213 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, 10:00am, starting 9 June - 14 July 2003.
23. Call-outs to winners will be done the following week after the scheduled date of weekly determination of winners. In case winner cannot be contacted through phone, he/she will be notified through registered mail.
24. Winners shall pay the 20% tax for prizes exceeding Php10,000.00 in value.
25. Smart Communications, Inc. reserves the right to disqualify or bar a contestant from joining the promo, without prior notice, for usage indicative of abuse or fraud.
26. The prize shall be awarded to the duly registered subscriber/user who, together with proper identification, has in his/her possession the winning SIM Card/Smart or Talk 'N Text number.
27. If the winning mobile number corresponds to a subscription of a company, the prize shall be awarded to the company, unless the company waives its right to the prize in favor of the "user".
28. Redemption period shall be within sixty (60) days, starting from the time registered mail is received by the subscriber. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Wholesale Travel Club with prior approval of DTI.
29. Subscriber can claim his/her prize from Wholesale Travel Club with address at Rm. 510, 5/F SMS Bldg., 213 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, and with telephone number 813-3075. Winners can look for Josephine M. Conclo or any authorized representative of Wholesale Travel Club at the above-mentioned address.
30. For provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the nearest Smart Business Center specified in the registered notice.
31. Winning subscriber must present the following when claiming his/her prize: Winning mobile number (SIM Card); Valid Identification (Driver's License, Passport, Company ID, Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, or any other official document proving identity); Registered Mail informing subscriber that he/she is the valid winner, as well as prize won; Valid ID and authorization letter from the company to which the account is under (if the winning mobile number corresponds to a company subscription).
32. If the winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his parent/guardian when claiming the prize, and both minor and his/her parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian of the minor.
33. All prizes are completely transferable but not convertible to cash.
34. Prizes can be availed within 6 months from receipt of registered mail.
35. All prizes shall be subject to confirmation of booking.
36. Certain booked-out dates are indicated in the prize certificates for winners to determine when prize/s cannot be used.

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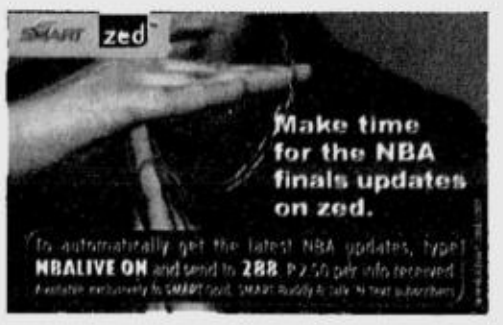
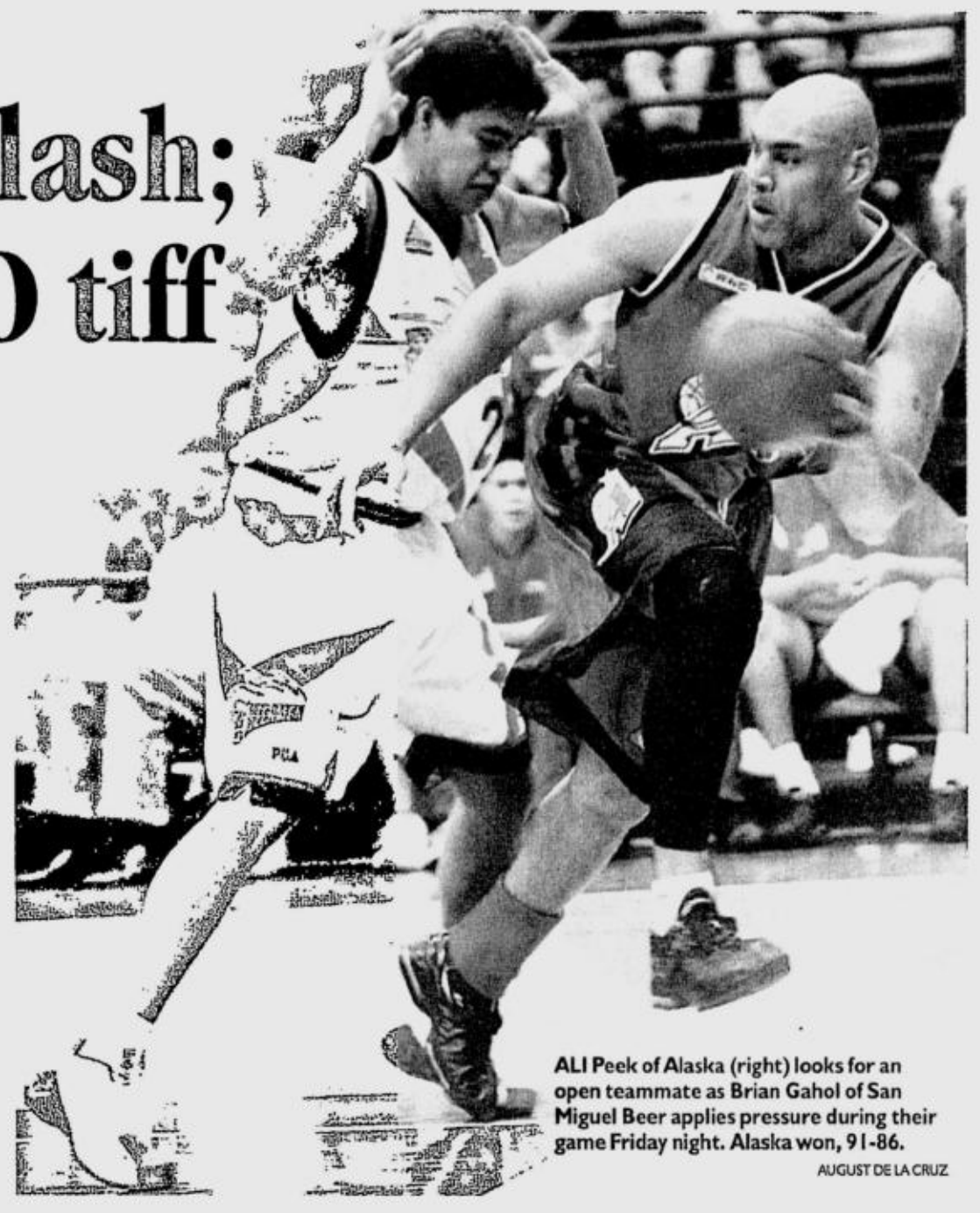


ALL FILIPINO CUP

Tigers, Phone Pals clash; Gins, Thunder in KO tiff



ALI Peek of Alaska (right) looks for an open teammate as Brian Gahol of San Miguel Beer applies pressure during their game Friday night. Alaska won, 91-86.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.--Talk N Text vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.--Ginebra vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

DEFENDING champion Coca-Cola and Talk N' Text collide in a clash of early quarterfinal winners today in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is set at 4 p.m. with the winner virtually clinching a tie for one of two semifinal slots being disputed by the four Group B qualifiers in a single round series.

Barangay Ginebra and Batang Red Bull tangle in a virtual knockout match later at 6:30 p.m.

The Gin Kings, who missed Jun Limpot, took an 86-79 setback from the Coca-Cola Tigers while the Thunder, playing minus Jimwell Torion and Davonn Harp, proved no match for the Phone Pals, 110-84, last Wednesday.

Last game

The loser in the Coca-Cola-Talk N' Text duel can still vie for a semifinal seat by winning its last game, but Phone Pals coach Joel Banal and Tigers mentor Chot Reyes want to sweep their three matches.

"We can never take chances here in the quarterfinals. Given the format, a setback can immediately spell elimination from the semifinals," said Banal.

The Phone Pals got a spectacular game from rookie Jimmy Alapag in beating the Thunder, but they are not taking the Tigers lightly.

"That game was already forgotten as far as the team is concerned. Now, we move on against Coca-Cola and their vaunted running game," said Banal.

The Tigers needed the heroics of Jeffrey Cariaso and Rafi Reavis to turn back the Gin Kings and they must come up with a defense to contain Asi Taulava.

"Asi will be our biggest headache while Jimmy (Alapag), of course, always poses a threat. Anyway, we have prepared something against Talk N' Text," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska show the way in the other four-team group seeking the other two semifinal berths with victories Friday over FedEx and San Miguel Beer, respectively.

Deadline

Limpot and Harp, along with Ryan Bernardo of FedEx, Talk N' Text's Long David, Noli Locsin and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer, beat Friday's deadline set by the Commissioner's Office to make their appeal regarding their indefinite suspension for failing the league's drug testing program.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said he would act on the players' appeal tomorrow at the earliest.

Eala stressed, however, that the only way the six players can clear their names is to take a retest of the same urine sample, which recently tested positive, and get a negative result this time.

Torion, the first player slapped with indefinite suspension, is undergoing rehab after admitting he took shabu.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ **Annika fires 64, takes 2-shot lead** /A25

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PBL UNITY CUP FINALS

Viva stuns Hapee in Game 1, 64-57

GAMES TUESDAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Achievement Awards
4 p.m.—Viva vs Hapee Toothpaste

By Dennis U. Eroa

LUCENA CITY—Viva was only too happy to prove Hapee coach Junel Baculi was right.

Playing with the reckless abandon of an underdog, Viva Mineral Water shocked favored Hapee Toothpaste, 64-57, yesterday in Game 1 of their best-of-five championship series for the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup at the Quezon Convention Center here.

Experts had predicted a sweep for Hapee after winning its first four meetings with Viva in the tournament, but Baculi said he respected Viva too much to predict an unbeaten title romp.

Living up to Baculi's high regard of them, the Water Force surged to an early 30-18 lead in the second quarter and expertly defused a rally that brought Hapee within 51-54 in the last period.

"We were outhustled," said Baculi, who must win Game 2 on Tuesday at the Pasig Sports Center for Hapee to avoid the possibility of being swept in the title playoffs.

Viva coach Koy Banal, who likened the series to a battle between David and Goliath, credited the mental toughness of his boys for the victory.

"There is no question that the team has the heart to win. I told my boys that faith is meaningless without effort. I'm satisfied that they've responded very well," he said.

Cesar Catli, Warren Ybañez, Mark Isip, Dennis Miranda and Joel Co exploited Hapee's lack of focus break an 18-18 tie and open that 30-18 advantage.

Hapee trimmed down the lead to 30-35 at halftime but Viva remained in solid control until Wesley Gonzales, Larry Fonacier and LA Tenorio moved the Sparklers within 51-54 with seven minutes left.

But Viva quickly responded with a thunderous slam by Gerard Jones and a layup by Sunny Margate, 58-51, and the Water Force were never headed from there.

Earlier, John O snapped a six-game losing streak to beat Montaña Pawnshop, 80-67, and salvage third place.

Veterans Richard Melencio, Ricky Calimag and Emerson Oreta had no trouble piercing Montaña's defense as John O pulled away beyond recall in the third quarter.

Melencio shone with 18 points, 12 rebounds and three assists, while Oreta and Calimag each contributed 12 points.

The Senators were heavily-favored to make their first-ever finals after ruling the double-round eliminations, but suddenly lost their form in the semifinals.

Pivotman Malron Basco fired seven of his 14 points in the second quarter as the Jewels kept it close, 30-26, at halftime.

Scores:

First game:

JOHN O 80—Melencio 18, Calimag 12, Oreta 12, Ortega 8, Macapagal 6, McCoy 6, Kiram 5, Vergara 2, Cruz 4, Laygo 3, Eman 2, Madrid 0.

MONTAÑA 67—Magsumbol 14, Basco 13, David 11, Alfad 9, Salvador 8, Robinson 7, Coronel 4, Sayon 1, Mendoza 0, Guerrero 0, Saniel 0.

Quarters: 19-14, 30-26, 53-34, 80-67.

Second game:

VIVA 64—Isip 11, Co 11, Sinco 8, Margate 8, Misolas 7, Catli 6, Ybanez 5, Razon 4, Miranda 2, Jones 2, Napa 0.

HAPEE 57—Gonzales 12, Salangsang 11, Fonacier 7, Simon 6, Tenorio 6, Espiritu 4, Alvarez 4, Tan 2, Mercado 2, Gelig 2, Dy 1, Dualan 0, Saquilayan 0, Benedicto 0.

Quarters: 20-18, 35-30, 52-48, 64-57.

Manila Marathon entry list swells

THE ENTRY list has surpassed the 10,000 mark and thousands more are expected to register for the inaugural Manila Marathon, which hits the road on June 22.

Besides the enthusiastic response from runners of the competitive and the leisurely kind, major backers of sports led by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office have also started to respond positively to the endeavor organized by the city government under Mayor Lito Atienza.

Aside from the full 42.195-km race, there will be 10-km, 5-km and 3-km fun runs which will be seen on Double Team, a Sunday sports show over RPN Channel 9 and hosted by former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega Mercado and former Philippine Sports Commission chair Philip Ella Juico.

The marathon, set on an out-and-back course starting in front of the Quirino grandstand, will also enjoy live radio coverage on dzSR Sports Radio.

National runners, led by SEAG marathon champions Roy Vence and Cristabel Martes, are also on the list ofter Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, designated the event as one of the qualifying and tuneup races for SEA Games hopefuls.

The men's champion in the 42K will receive P75,000 while the women's titlist in the same event will go home with P50,000. Cash prizes will also go to the second to 10th placers in both 42K divisions and to the top finishers in the 10K and 5K races and some of the 3K categories, bringing the total prize pot to over P500,000.

Registration centers, according to Ali Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council (MASCO) and project director of the Manila Marathon, are the MASCO offices at the Manila City Hall and San Andres Sports Complex in Malate, Manila, through Ting Baulos and at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association office through secretary general Ben Silva Netto at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Inquiries may be obtained at tel. nos. 527-0983, 526-1914 or 527-7804 and telefax 526-1916.

Activities for the Manila Marathon, which is intended to become the country's version of the prestigious Boston Marathon, start a day earlier on June 21 with a mini-concert and mini raffles at the Raja Sulaiman Park fountain area in Malate.

Ebuen, Valbuena lead table tennis winners

NATIONAL champion Ernesto Ebuen III showed superb form, while TATAP president Victor Valbuena swept his opening match to lead the march of the favorites yesterday in the men's open of the PCSO-1st President's Cup Table Tennis Championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Ebuen proved too much for Empoy Santiago, 11-3, 11-5, 11-5, while Valbuena showed flashes of his old form in whipping Stephen Lozada, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9.

Also advancing in the premier division of the four-day tournament sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office are former national players Michael Dalumpines and Rebo Cruz and RP No. 3 Richard Gonzales.

Dalumpines squeaked past underrrated Emmanuel Motel, 16-18, 12-10, 11-7, 11-9; Cruz whipped Paulo Cruz, 16-14, 11-7, 11-6; and Gonzales trounced former national player Ariel Merin, 5-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-9.

In the distaff side, Jessica Jawad mangled Ma. Consuelo Perucho, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8, in women's 25-under, while Rommelia Tambo thrashed Natalie Cayabyab, 11-8, 11-5, 11-7, in the women's open.

Crowd darling Anna Falcon likewise advanced, while Michael Motel stunned former No. 1 Rowell Yatco, 6-11, 10-12, 11-8, 11-9, 12-10.

Yatco could have wrapped up the game in the third set but a couple of unforced errors allowed Motel to steal the match.

Testing is never fun

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ALL this talk about drugs being the PBA's No. 1 problem today is untrue. What is true is, the PBA is virtually drug-free.

That is the problem.

That is so because players found positive for drugs say so. By claiming they don't use, never used, banned drugs, they have, in effect, cleared the league of drug raps. They have also made liars out of police and health officials who tested them positive for drug use.

But how can the drug testers lie?

If there was to be a lie at all, it had to come from the gadgets used to perform the tests. Not humans.

It is so easy to brand a test a lie. However, it is in the proving that makes things different, if not difficult. Easy to say this or that player has sold a game; proving that charge is another thing.

Which brings us back to the question: How can the result of a drug test be a lie when testers had gadgets to aid them in the testing?

Testers are not up in arms against those saying they did a mistake. But they say a retest is to be allowed only by using the same specimen used in the first test. That, to me, doesn't make much sense.

It is almost for sure the same result will come out from the second test. That's common sense. How can one plus one have a different sum when the addition's done a second time? One plus one equals 11 after the previous addition had a 2 for a sum?

My eye.

On the other hand, will it make sense if a second specimen (a.k.a. urine sample) is used during the re-testing?

I guess, it will. In all likelihood, it will probably produce a result entirely different from that of the first testing, especially so if the second testing is done days after the first testing. And should that happen, what happens now to the result of the first testing?

Some contend it was almost impossible to pin down more drug users in the league after the Jimwell Torion case. Drug users will have used wise judgment and not take drugs again. This time, better to be really safe than sorry. Get real. Get no deal. No high is higher than coming out clean.

But then it still happened. More tests collared quite a catch, including one perceived as a most unlikely user that, if Mother Teresa were alive, she would have absolved him instantly.

And so, in the absence of a second test, which counts in the end, the result or the denial? Is a result truer than that of a denial?

The best judge to truth is truth itself. The best proof that the league is drug-free is its players.

But if the league is drug-free, how can that be a problem?

Only players can say the league is drug-free. That is the problem.

That is a problem because tests say otherwise. However, despite that, only Torion among the 14 or so supposed drug offenders has confessed. The non-confessors have even threatened to bring their case to court.

If that is the case, did the league put the horse before the carriage? Drug test first, defend the move later?

It seems odd enough that the league is taking flak for a project deemed very noble from the very start. Suddenly, it has become suspect due to a clutch of denials from players who tested positive.

Are denials SOP? Are they to be entertained at all?

A man of law told me any person found positive for drugs cannot appeal his case and can be subjected to prosecution outright.

Whether true or not, the fact remains that most of the players found positive for drugs are contesting the results. Several doctors have said there could be flaws in the procedure, a reason cited by our politicians to start their own probe.

As usual, the politicians are doing it "in aid of legislation."

As usual, the politicians will soon say they are not about to conclude this or that player is "guilty as charged."

As usual, the politicians, if they are in the mood, would draft a bill to further enhance the efficacy of already existing laws about drug trafficking and other drug-related activities.

The only unusual thing I see is the imperfection of it all. I can see it coming.

Or do I need an eye test?

***

FASTBREAK. If plans do not miscarry, the Philippine Sports Commission will stage the First Luzon Games on Sept. 14 - 21 in Lingayen and Dagupan City in Pangasinan. PSC Chair Eric Buhain has made Commissioner Ambrosio de Luna the point man for the event. If I could be of help, just give me a call, fellas. For starters, I can be your translator. I can speak both Ilocano and Pangasinense ... Peter Lee, the famous restaurateur, tells me he has stopped eating wonton noodles in places outside his restaurant. "All they do is put *vetsin* in their food," he said. "Me, I put nothing but quality in my food." Methinks your pancit canton will remain world champion if served always with *ampalaya*.

SPORTSWATCH

Limjap, Agojo rule South Challenge

BACOLOD—Negros bet Justin Limjap beat the challenge of Manila's Nonoy Negrido to emerge overall champion in the inaugural Samsung National Jungolf Southern Challenge here. Limjap closed out with a 76 with his 54-hole aggregate of 224 at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club course giving him a five-shot win over Negrido, whose 77 was marred by a double par. Jayvie Agojo, the spearhead of the country's contingent to next month's Junior World championships in San Diego, settled for third overall and the runaway girls Class A winner after a round of 76. IG Gutierrez and Kathleen Uy (Class B), Anelo Asistio and Mia Piccio (Class C), Abigail Oleo (Class D), Lloyd Jefferson Go and Irina Gabasa (Class E) cruised to easy victories in their respective divisions.

Head-to-head duel by Woods, Els

WOODS

FAR HILLS, New Jersey—Holder Tiger Woods and two-time winner Ernie Els will go head-to-head in the first two rounds of the US Open next week at Olympia Fields. Friday's draw pitched world number one Woods and second-ranked South African Els with US Amateur champion Ricky Barnes who enjoyed a stunning performance at the US Masters in April and at one stage threatened the lead. The draw confirms a tradition at the US Open to pitch the holder with the British Open and US Amateur champions. *Reuters*

Ducks have home ice for Game 6

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—The New Jersey Devils know all about home ice advantage. The Devils tied the playoff record for most wins at home with their 11th postseason triumph at the Continental Airlines Arena Thursday, downing the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 6-3 to move within one victory of their third Stanley Cup in nine years. But it is the Ducks who have home ice for Game Six Saturday, looking to bring the series back to the Meadowlands for Game Seven Monday. *AP*

Friendship Cup quarterfinals on

THE QUARTERFINALS of the Burlington-PRA Friendship Cup commence today at the Tanduay Gym in Quiapo, Manila. Co-presented by LA Gear, Sportshouse and Accel, the cagefest among the leading retailers will see York-LA Gear facing Burlington at 9 a.m. Other games on schedule in the men's division are GNC vs YKL to be followed by Memory Magic vs JVS Body Shop and Toby's Montanara. The top four teams, York, GNC, Memory Magic and Toby's need only a victory each to advance in the semifinals in the tournament supported by Fab, John Springs, Puma and Bally socks.

Lewis-Johnson heavy clash off

LEWIS

DALLAS—Canadian Kirk Johnson has pulled out of his world heavyweight title fight against champion Lennox Lewis in Los Angeles on June 21 because of injury, organizers said on Saturday. Johnson sustained a torn chest muscle in sparring at his Dallas-Fort Worth training camp on Wednesday and doctors ruled him out of the fight on Friday. The 30-year-old first felt a twinge after throwing a left uppercut. Dr. Alan Stockard of Fort Worth took an MRI scan on Friday and diagnosed a torn left pectoral muscle. *AFP*

Cagayan netter bags 2 titles

BUTUAN City—Irene Cerito of Cagayan de Oro beat local entry Anafil Salomon 7-5, 6-4 in the girls' 16-under division then ripped Joan Minosa 6-1, 6-1 in the junior women's 21-under division to become a double titlist in the recent Adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 here at the Luz Village Tennis Club. Salomon bounced back with a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 win over Honey Mae Gilles in the girls' 14-under bracket in the Adidas netfest supported by Wilson Balls, Milo and Sports Kids and coordinated with club president Gen. Alberto Rema Olario. The fourth leg of the event will be held at the Nazareth Tennis Club in Cagayan de Oro City from June 13 to 15.

Asian F3 slated June 21-22

THE PHILIPPINES' only international formula race series this year, the Asian Formula 3 Series will be staged at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, on June 21-22. The FIA-recognized formula series is supported by Yokohama, Denso and Regional Container Lines. International class leader Pepon Marave of Shell-Casino Filipino-Team Tom's heads the field. In the promotional class, Shell teammate Mike Potenciano paces the field after his double wins in the opening rounds in Subic. For more details, please call the AF3 office at 8338795/8338392 or visit the website at www.asianf3.net

Hong Kong keglers flex might

HONG Kong bets flexed their might yesterday in the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Bowling Championships at the Green Valley Center in Pasig. Wu Siu Hong, one of Hong Kong's top youth bowlers, grabbed the lead in the men's all events (class 0) with a 1801 tally to lead national team coach Purvis Granger (1765) and Robert Tan (1734). Hong and partner Cyrus Cheung later teamed up with Filipino Edgar Barroga to ease out the RP trio of Paulo Valdez, CJ Suarez and Biboy Rivera on top of the team event (class 0) of the meet sponsored by Boysen, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Kegel Asia, Aviva and backed by Prima, Amstar, Astor, BQS Management, Kenway, Tone Guide, Silver Wings, Mercury Int'l Security Printing, Paper Handling Systems, Confident Feminine Napkins and H.S. Pow Construction.

Cavite derby lures top cockers

PROMINENT members of United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap), National Cockers Association (NCA) and other bigtime cockers organization will compete in the upcoming "Big Fight Sa Cavite 6-Cock One Day Derby" at the Cavite Coliseum on July 5. To ensure the event's success, five popular cocker-sportsmen have joined forces to host the derby. They are Sen. Ramon Revilla, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co. Sponsor is Pagcor Casino Filipino. The derby will start at 4 p.m. since more than 80 fights are on tap. For more details, contact 0918-5674921 (Ferdie Bautista) and 046-9709971 (Cavite Coliseum).

Mandaluyong 4-cock meet set

BIGTIME and medium-scale derbyists will clash in the "RJMM Super 4-Cock Derby" on Tuesday (June 10) at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.. Derby fans can expect more than 50 quality fights on Tuesday, according to hosts Rody Torres, Joel Ngo, Maricar Gonzaga and Monching Adriano. Entries must be submitted tomorrow (June 9) from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341 for details.

PERFECT SCORER
Ernie Rosas of Puyat Sports Team (3rd from left) is awarded two bowling balls by Pearl Bowling Center Vice-President James dela Cruz as his prize for scoring a perfect 300-game (12 strikes) in the Tenpin Bowling Club of Parañaque (TBCP) tournament recently. Rosas won the championship. Others in photo are TBCP director Liberto M. Carabeo (left) and TBCP president Vincent Reyes.

LPGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Annika fires 64, takes 2-shot lead

WILMINGTON, Delaware—Annika Sorenstam underlined her status as the dominant force in the women's game by taking control of the second major of the season, the $1.6-million LPGA Championship, with a seven-under-par 64 on Friday.

The world number one from Sweden crammed nine birdies in her round to finish with an eight-under total of 134 at the Dupont Country Club, two strokes clear of overnight leader Han Hee-Won (69) of South Korea.

A further shot back on 137 was American Solheim Cup player Wendy Ward (69). Australia's Rachel Teske (70) was in fourth place on 139, with Japan's Akiko Fukushima (68) and Natalie Gulbis (69) of the US sharing fifth on 140.

Two weeks ago, Sorenstam dipped into the men's game and missed the cut amid much hype at the Colonial tournament in Texas. But her visit to the PGA Tour, and all the publicity that surrounded it, has provided a wealth of positive experiences.

The player who won 13 times around the world last year appears to have raised her game to an even higher level, as she demonstrated on a day of tricky winds that produced only 24 sub-par scores.

The next best after Sorenstam's 64 were the 68s from Fukushima and American Rosie Jones.

Last week, Sorenstam returned to the LPGA Tour to successfully defend a title in Illinois, and she now has her sights set firmly on a fifth major and a first LPGA Championship.

"In the last three weeks, I feel I am playing better than ever," she told reporters.

"I believe that now Colonial is in the past, I am kind of relieved and playing better golf. I think I'm probably striking the ball better than I ever have.

"All year, the majors have been my priority. I think I am very tired but at the moment I'm not feeling it. I'm just trying to live in the moment and do the best I can," said Sorenstam.

"But I'm not getting carried away as yet. This is only Friday, I want to take one day at a time." Often criticized for hiding her feelings under her baseball cap and sunglasses, the normally undemonstrative Swede has also begun to show her emotions more in the past couple of weeks. *AP*

SORENSTAM hits out of a sandtrap to set up a birdie putt on the 16th hole. REUTERS

Sorenstam: No to $1-M PGA dare

WILMINGTON, Delaware—Annika Sorenstam was amused by a PGA Tour journeyman who challenged her to an 18-hole match for $1 million.

But John Riegger will have to prove his point to someone else.

"I'm not interested," Sorenstam said Friday at the LPGA Championship.

Sorenstam already had her day against the guys, becoming the first woman in 58 years on the PGA Tour when she played in the Colonial two weeks ago. She had respectable rounds of 71-74 and missed the cut by four shots.

"It's quite an interesting topic, and everybody is coming up with some ideas," Sorenstam said. "I did what I wanted to do, and I had a great time doing it. It was the biggest challenge of my life, and that's where I want to leave it at."

Riegger didn't want to let it go, offended that Sorenstam could even dream of finishing 100th on the PGA Tour money list if she were to play 30 times. *AP*

Sabbatini up; Duval sparkles

POTOMAC, Maryland—South Africa's Rory Sabbatini grabbed a two-shot lead but David Duval stole the show with a spectacular nine-under-par 62 in the second round of the $4.5-million Kemper Open on Friday.

Sabbatini's 66 put him eight-under on 134, two ahead of the resurgent Duval, Notah Begay III, Tom Gillis and Sweden's Niclas Fasth.

Hal Sutton, the 2004 US Ryder Cup captain, was back on 137 along with 2002 US PGA champion Rich Beem and Patrick Sheehan at a soggy TPC at Avenel.

Duval, who started on the 10th hole, did not record a bogey all day. He birdied the last five holes of his front nine to reach the turn in a six-under 29 and then had three more birdies coming home.

Since winning the British Open nearly two years ago, Duval has been in the doldrums. *Reuters*

Rosales bounces back

"I'M back!"

That was what Jenny Rosales exclaimed in a brief talk with coach Bong Lopez yesterday after she fired a three-under-par 68 Friday to bounce back into contention halfway through the $1.6-million McDonald's LPGA Championship presented by AIG in Wilmington, Delaware.

Coming off two missed cuts and a mediocre three-over 74 in the opening round, Rosales recovered her putting touch to make the biggest jump of the day—from a tie for 51st to a share of 11th—with her 142 aggregate.

The five-way logjam at 142 also included Fil-Am Dorothy Joy Delasin who could have been closer to solo leader Annika Sorenstam (64-134) if not for a double-bogey on the final hole of the Dupont Country Club.

Delasin, shooting five birdies, ended up with a second straight even-par round of 71.

Rosales made a bogey mistake on the opening hole and that was it, picking up four birdies en route to her best score in three weeks since returning from a minor wrist injury.

The key was her short game, needing just 26 putts, eight to save par. That was far off her current average of 32 putts per round.

Lopez said that her improved putting is a positive sign especially since the biggest event of the year, the US Open in Portland, Oregon, is just three weeks away.

"She knows that it's what she really needs to do if she is to win a tournament. Everything is there except for the consistency in putting."

Jong Arcano

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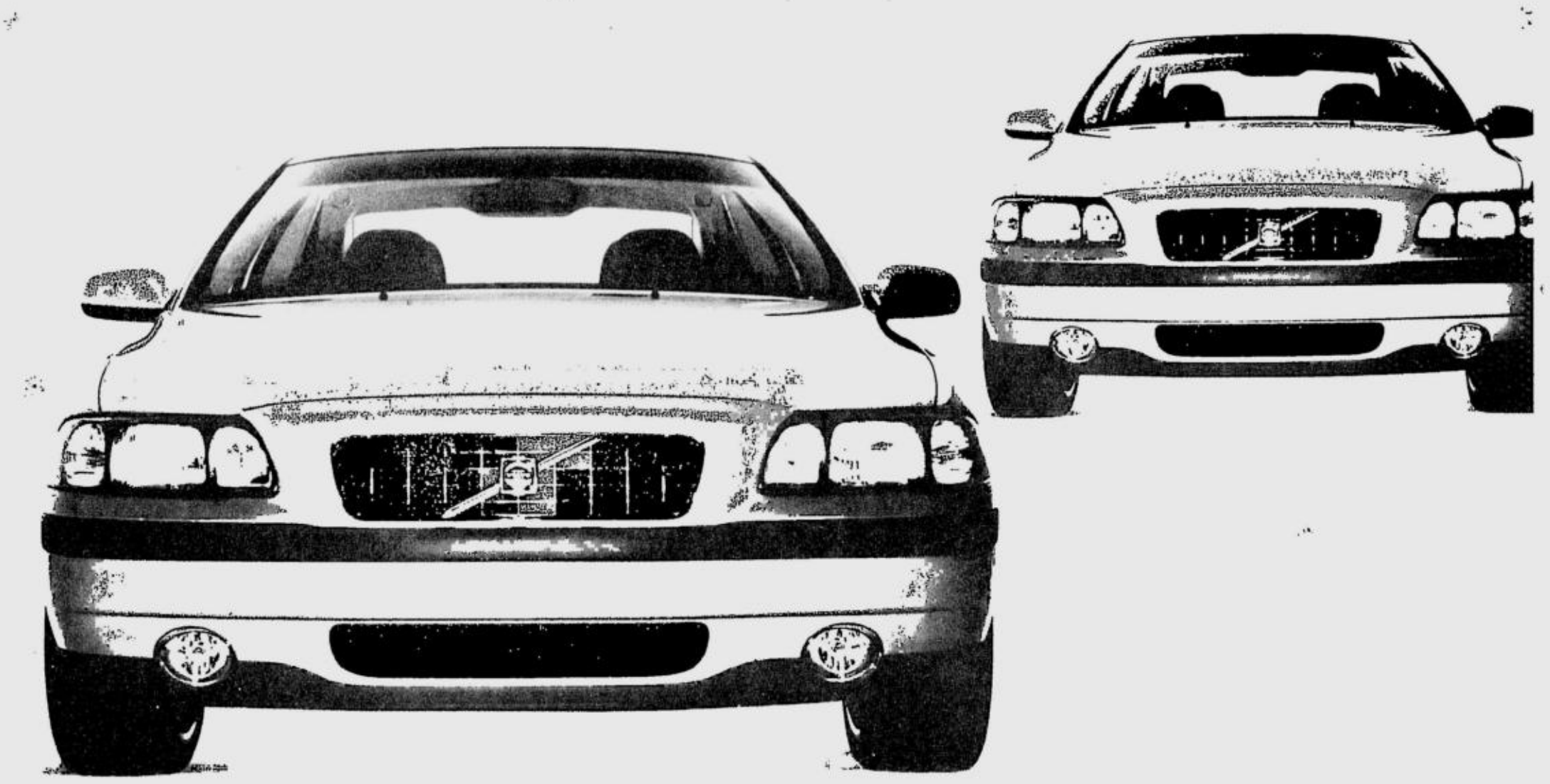

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NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 1, Nets 1

Game 1: San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2: New Jersey 87, San Antonio 85
Game 3 at New Jersey (June 9, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (June 12, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8:30 a.m.)

*IF NECESSARY
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

Nets nip Spurs, square series

Kidd, Mutombo, Collins star

SAN ANTONIO—Jason Kidd's free-throw shooting, along with the defense of Dikembe Mutombo and Jason Collins against Tim Duncan, led the New Jersey Nets to an 87-85 victory over the San Antonio Spurs, evening the series at one game apiece.

The Spurs had a chance to win Friday's game at the end, but Stephen Jackson missed a 3-pointer with 3 seconds left, and no one gained control of the loose ball before the final buzzer sounded.

The series now heads to New Jersey for a week, and it's a whole lot different than it did a day earlier, when the Nets were questioning and almost ridiculing the strategies used by coach Byron Scott.

Scott made plenty of adjustments, most notably giving 20 minutes of playing time to Mutombo—the four-time defensive player of the year who had barely played in the postseason.

Mutombo made his first two shots, blocked three others and gave the Nets an inside presence that prevented the Spurs from scoring with ease from the inside, as they had in Game 1.

Collins, a second-year center, also was effective in neutralizing Duncan as the Nets held the MVP to 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Duncan hurt his own team by missing seven of 10 free throws, and he also committed four of the Spurs' 22 turnovers.

Kidd led the Nets with 30 points—including 13 in the fourth quarter—and seven rebounds. Kenyon Martin had 14 points and two blocks, and Lucious Harris came off the bench to score 10. Those were the only four players to score in double figures for the Nets.

Tony Parker scored 21 points for San Antonio, with Jackson adding 16. The Spurs shot just 14-for-25 (56 percent) from the foul line.

On offense, the Nets were much more aggressive taking the ball inside and challenging San Antonio's shot blockers.

On defense, they let Collins and Mutombo handle the bulk of the assignment on Duncan, and each was able to contain him. San Antonio did not reach 50 points until 2:37 remained in the third quarter.

Duncan had only eight points at halftime and did not have a field goal in the fourth quarter until there was 4:46 left. That jump hook was followed by an airball from Martin and a short jumper by Parker to cut San Antonio's deficit to 78-75 with 4:14 left.

Three nifty touch passes led to a layup by Martin, but Robinson dunked on a fast break and Parker sped upcourt for a running 9-footer that made it a one-point game, 80-79, with 2:06 left.

Kidd's running jumper from the baseline gave New Jersey an 82-79 lead with 1:16 left, and San Antonio had a turnover and two missed shots on its next two possessions.

Duncan went to the line with the Spurs trailing 82-79 with 24.6 seconds left and tossed up a brick that rattled around the rim and ricocheted away as the crowd moaned. He made the second, and the Spurs then began intentionally fouling Kidd.

He made his first four, missed one with 8.1 seconds left and then made his last one, setting the stage for Jackson's errant 3-pointer.

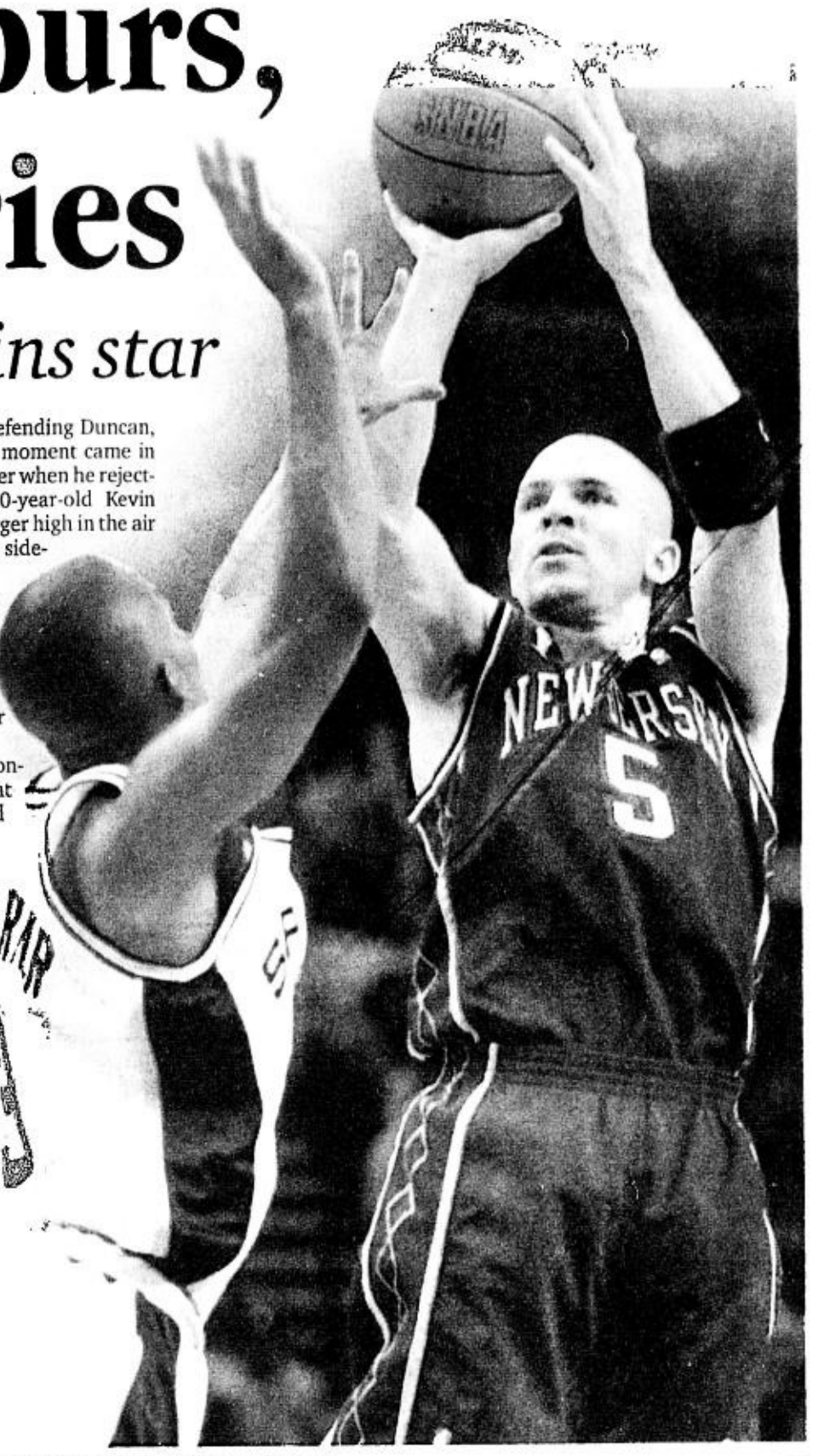
Mutombo played the entire second quarter and did an admirable job defending Duncan, but his signature defensive moment came in the final minute of the quarter when he rejected a layup attempt by 40-year-old Kevin Willis, then held his right finger high in the air and wagged his finger from side-to-side.

New Jersey led 41-35 at halftime as San Antonio, which made its first five shots of the game, made just two the rest of the first quarter and just eight over the rest of the half.

Martin was obviously conscious of his foul trouble at the outset of the second half: He didn't even raise his arms to defend a layup by Robinson early in the period, and he stood still like a statue as Duncan grabbed an errant shot and banked it in to cut the Nets' lead to 47-44.

Turnovers kept the Spurs from hanging onto that momentum, and the Nets quickly struck back. A difficult hanging hook shot from the lane by Kidd was followed by a 3-pointer from Kittles off an offensive rebound to make it 55-45 with 4:45 left in the third—the first double-digit lead of the game.

AP



KIDD (right) soars for a jumper against Tony Parker. AFP

'Deke' shows defensive might, asks for more playing time

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—African giant Dikembe Mutombo, relegated to the bench for most of the playoffs, made the most of his second chance by helping shut down Tim Duncan in a key role for the triumphant New Jersey Nets.

Jason Kidd scored 30 points in an 87-85 Nets' victory here Friday that leveled the best-of-seven National Basketball Association Finals at 1-1, but it was Mutombo who helped keep NBA Most Valuable Player Duncan in check.

"You couldn't ask any more from Deke than what he gave us," Kidd said. "It changes the whole outlook of our defense. We can be more aggressive. It gives us a hidden weapon."

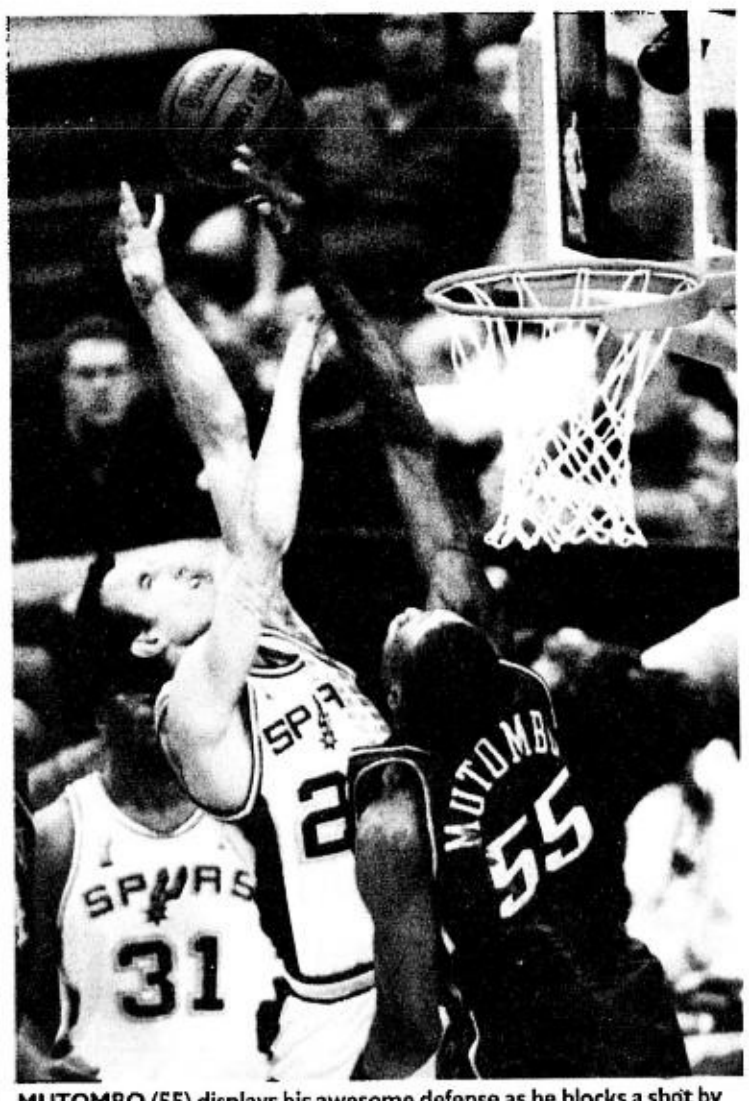
The 7-foot-2 center from the Democratic Republic of Congo lost his starting spot last November after a right wrist injury. Mutombo played only six minutes in a game one loss, his first action in nearly a month.

Nets coach Byron Scott had been concerned the four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year would be a liability to the fast-paced offense of his squad, but Mutombo was able to contribute more on defense than he cost in speed.

"I felt so good," Mutombo said. "I showed so many things in a positive way. I hope the coaches will take a good note of it and give me a chance to play more.

"I'm not asking to start. I'm not trying to push nobody away. I want to feel like I'm part of this group. I was not feeling like that for a while and that was hard for me."

Mutombo played 20 minutes, scored four points and pulled down four rebounds while blocking three shots and keeping Duncan off balance. The Spurs star had 32 points and 20 rebounds in game one, but only 19 points and 12 boards Friday. *AFP*



MUTOMBO (55) displays his awesome defense as he blocks a shot by San Antonio Spurs' Emanuel Ginobili in the second quarter. REUTERS

Europe teams in NBA by 2010

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—The National Basketball Association will likely have European-based clubs by 2010 and will conduct more games in Europe and Asia as well as clinics in Africa to develop talent.

NBA Commissioner David Stern, speaking here Friday before game two of the NBA Finals between New Jersey and San Antonio, said large-capacity venues in major cities would spur European expansion.

"Realistically, if there are new buildings in Europe and if our league continues to grow, there's a good possibility there will be NBA franchises in Europe by the end of the decade," Stern said.

Location is no impediment on any club's potential to be an NBA contender, Stern said.

"The Spurs are as good a role model as there is," Stern said. "A team can win no matter where it is located. If you are well managed in our system, you can compete." NBA teams dropped global exhibitions in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington 21 months ago.

But pre-season games are set for October in France, Spain, Mexico and Puerto Rico while two 2003 regular-season openers will be played in Japan. Beijing and Shanghai will host 2004 exhibitions involving Chinese star Yao Ming of Houston.

Stern said he did not think the current SARS outbreak in China would deter the league's 2004 plans. *AFP*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: French Open 2003; 9 p.m.; Solar Sports - There can only be one as Martin Verkerk battles last year's runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero for the men's singles crown.

GOLF: LPGA Corning Classic; 1:30 p.m.; ESPN - Find out who emerges on top as the final round gets going.

PGA FBR Capital Open; 10 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 3 a.m.; Star Sports - See the final 36 holes played out from Potomac, Maryland.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2003 F1 Monaco Grand Prix Highlights; 9 p.m.; Star Sports - Shift back to reverse and relive the thrills and spills from Monte Carlo.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS Noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 015

In the news

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

❑True / ❑False: Crispa beat Toyota in their PBA reunion game, 65-61, at the Araneta Coliseum last May 30.

2 > 5 Pts.

Wang Nan of China made history by winning three gold medals (women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles) in Paris at the world championships of what sport?

❑Table tennis
❑Badminton

3 > 7 Pts.

What's the nationality of Gil de Ferran, winner of the recent Indianapolis 500 motor race?

❑Colombian
❑Brazilian
❑Argentinian

4 > 10 Pts.

Name the Spanish underdog who came back from two sets down to oust top seed Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in the third round of the French Open.

❑Carlos Moya
❑Tommy Robredo
❑Mariano Zabaleta

5 > 20 Pts.

Hartwig Gauder of Germany, a former 50-km walk Olympic gold medalist who now has a mechanical heart, plans to do what to encourage people to become donors for organ transplants?

❑Bike across America
❑Run the New York City Marathon
❑Walk up the Petronas Towers
❑Climb Mt. Fuji

6 > 25 Pts.

By what score did Efren "Bata" Reyes beat Warren Kiamco in the all-Filipino final of the 2nd leg of the San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour at the Pearl Plaza in Parañaque City?

❑11-1
❑11-2
❑11-3
❑11-4

7 > 30 Pts.

One of the special guests who attended the State Dinner in honor of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the White House last May 19 was Brian Viloria, the Hawaiian-born Fil-Am boxer who is the reigning NABF flyweight king and a one-time world amateur champion. Brian goes by what 'sweet' ring nickname?

ANSWERS/ A29

Stern expects Jordan to return as an exec

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—National Basketball Association commissioner David Stern said here Friday that he expects Michael Jordan to make a return to the league in an executive capacity before next season.

"It's my strong sense he will be back in the league for the 2003-2004 season," Stern said.

Admitting he was very certain about the move, Stern deferred on further comment, saying confidentiality prevented him from adding details.

Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles, retired in April at age 40 after his second comeback, a difficult two-year stint with the Washington Wizards, whom he had previously served as a part-owner and top executive.

Jordan vowed he would not return as a player but went to Wizards owner Abe Pollin after the season to talk about his return as vice president of basketball operations.

JORDAN

But Pollin did not want Jordan back in charge of the team and the two parted after a heated discussion.

Jordan has been linked to several NBA executive posts, but one most often cited has been the expansion franchise for Charlotte that will begin play in the 2004-2005 season.

The Charlotte team, which will announce its club nickname and logo on Wednesday, is owned by Robert Johnson, the first black to be majority owner of a major North American sports team and a friend of Jordan. *AFP*

Knights seek FIBL crown today

THE Bombay Bombers try to stop defending champion Knights today in Game 2 of the best-of- three championship series of the Filipino Indian Basketball League (FIBL) at the Makati Coliseum.

In the opener, the Knights, bidding to become the league's first team to win back-to-back championhips, posted a thrilling come-from-behind victory over the Bombers, 84-82, to set up the stage for today's game that will follow the special awarding ceremonies of the league to honor the FIBL's best performers this season starting at 3:30 p.m.

ILLEGAL BAT

Sosa gets 8-day ban, makes appeal

CHICAGO—All eyes were on Sammy Sosa but it was New York's Jason Giambi who took center stage to lead the Yankees to a 5-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs in Interleague play Friday.

Sosa appeared despite being handed an eight-game suspension earlier Friday for using an illegal corked bat against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays Tuesday.

The Cubs slugger, who can continue playing after filing an appeal, collected a single while striking out twice in four trips to the plate.

The Yankees scored twice in their first at-bats thanks to a Giambi homer off Carlos Zambrano (5-5) with Derek Jeter aboard.

Giambi plated a third run two innings later with a sacrifice fly. Ramon Martinez and Corey Patterson took David Wells (8-2) deep to account for all the Chicago scoring.

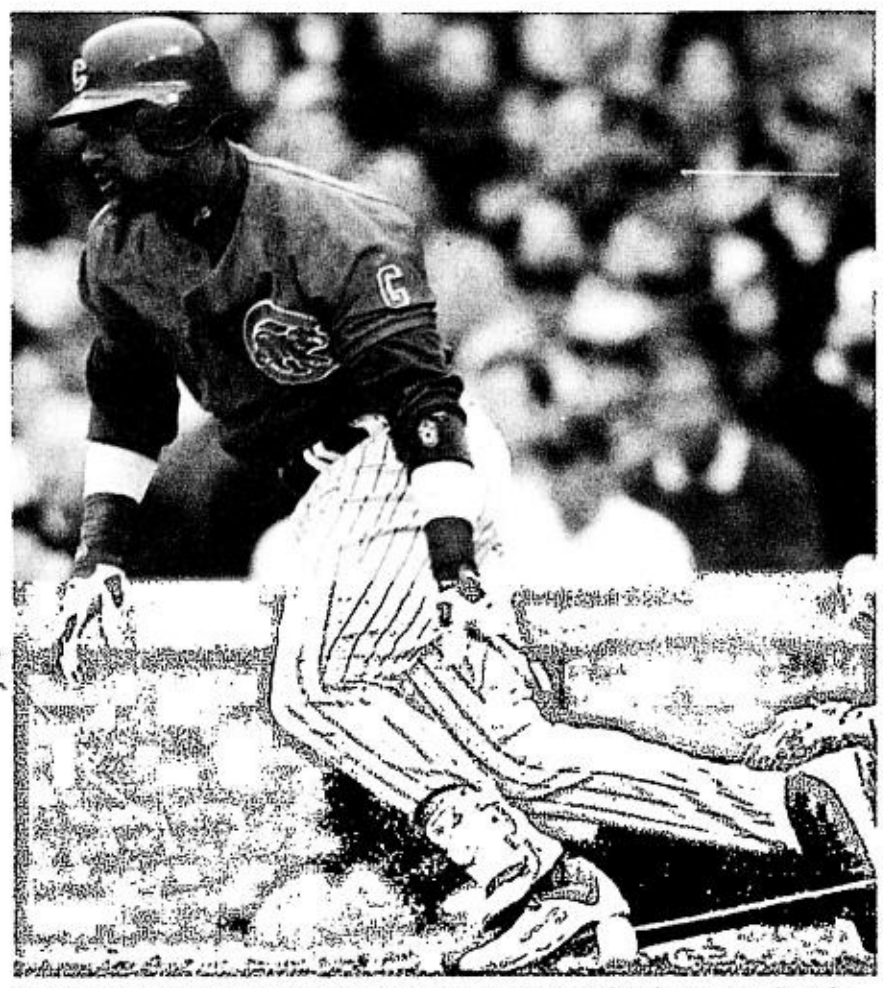
Mariano Rivera closed out for his fifth save of the season.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Brian Schneider doubled and homered to plate a career-high five runs as the Montreal Expos survived a late charge to down the reeling Texas Rangers 13-10.

Schneider doubled off Colby Lewis (4-4) with the bases full as the Expos scored five times in the first inning to hand Texas its seventh straight loss.

Livan Hernandez (5-4) yielded nine hits and five runs in seven innings of work, driving in two runs along the way. Juan Gonzalez gave the sellout crowd an early thrill when he doubled to put the Rangers up 2-0.

In Philadelphia, Miguel Tejada and Eric Chavez both drove in three runs as the Oakland Athletics thumped the Phillies 7-4.



SOSA lines a single to center field, in the second inning of their game against the New York Yankees at Wrigley Field in Chicago. REUTERS

Sosa immediately appealed the decision in hopes of getting it reduced.

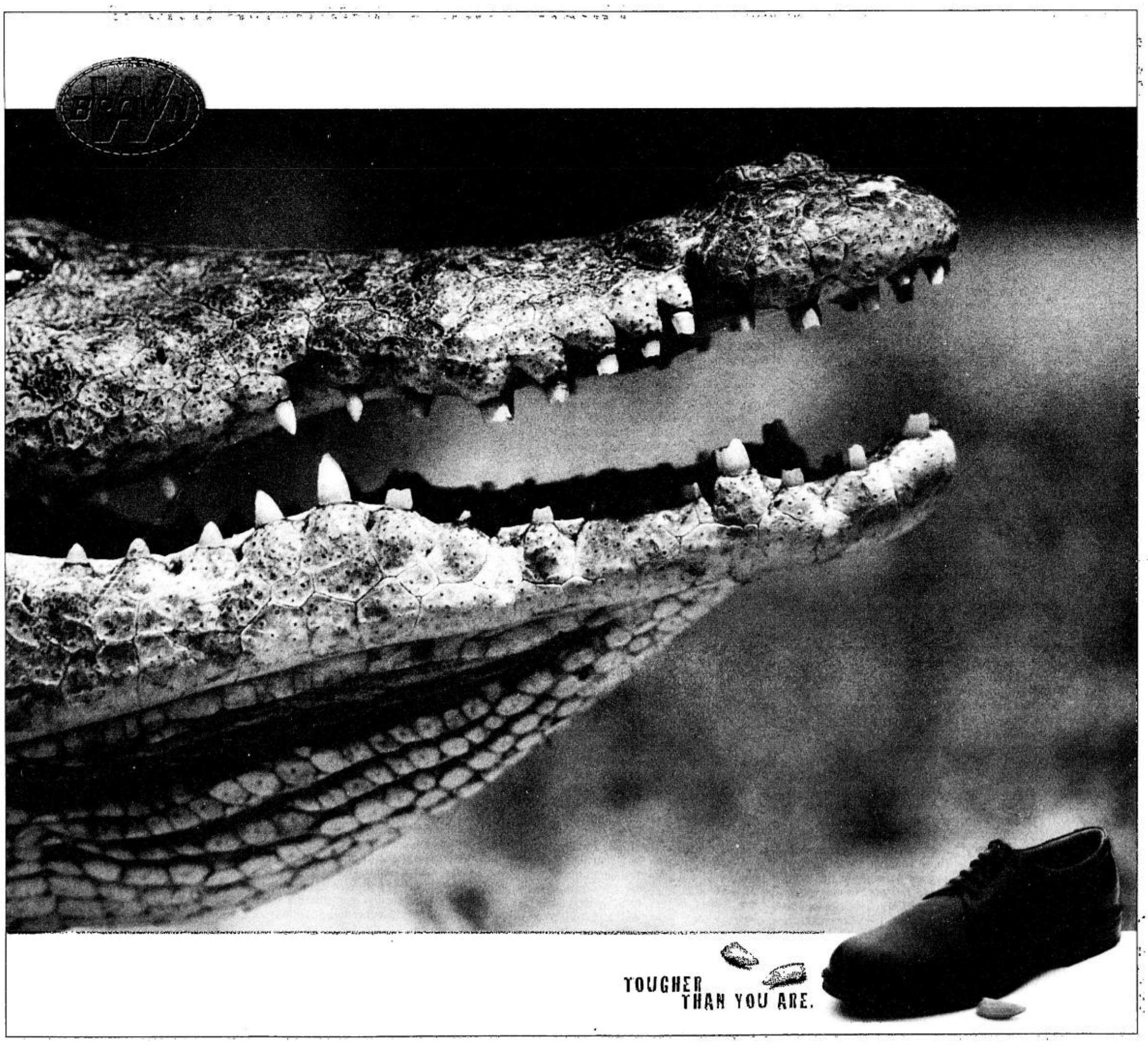
"As he stated all week, he understood he made a mistake," Chicago Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said. "He knew there was going to be a suspension, and I think he feels it's worth the appeal to try to have it reduced.

"Because of the circumstances and his up-frontness and his honesty about it, and the things that were checked out thoroughly, we're hopeful–all things considered–that it will be reduced some."

A hearing won't be held until Monday at the earliest, meaning the Cubs' slugger was eligible to play in this weekend's highly anticipated series with the New York Yankees. He started in right field in Friday's rain-delayed game.

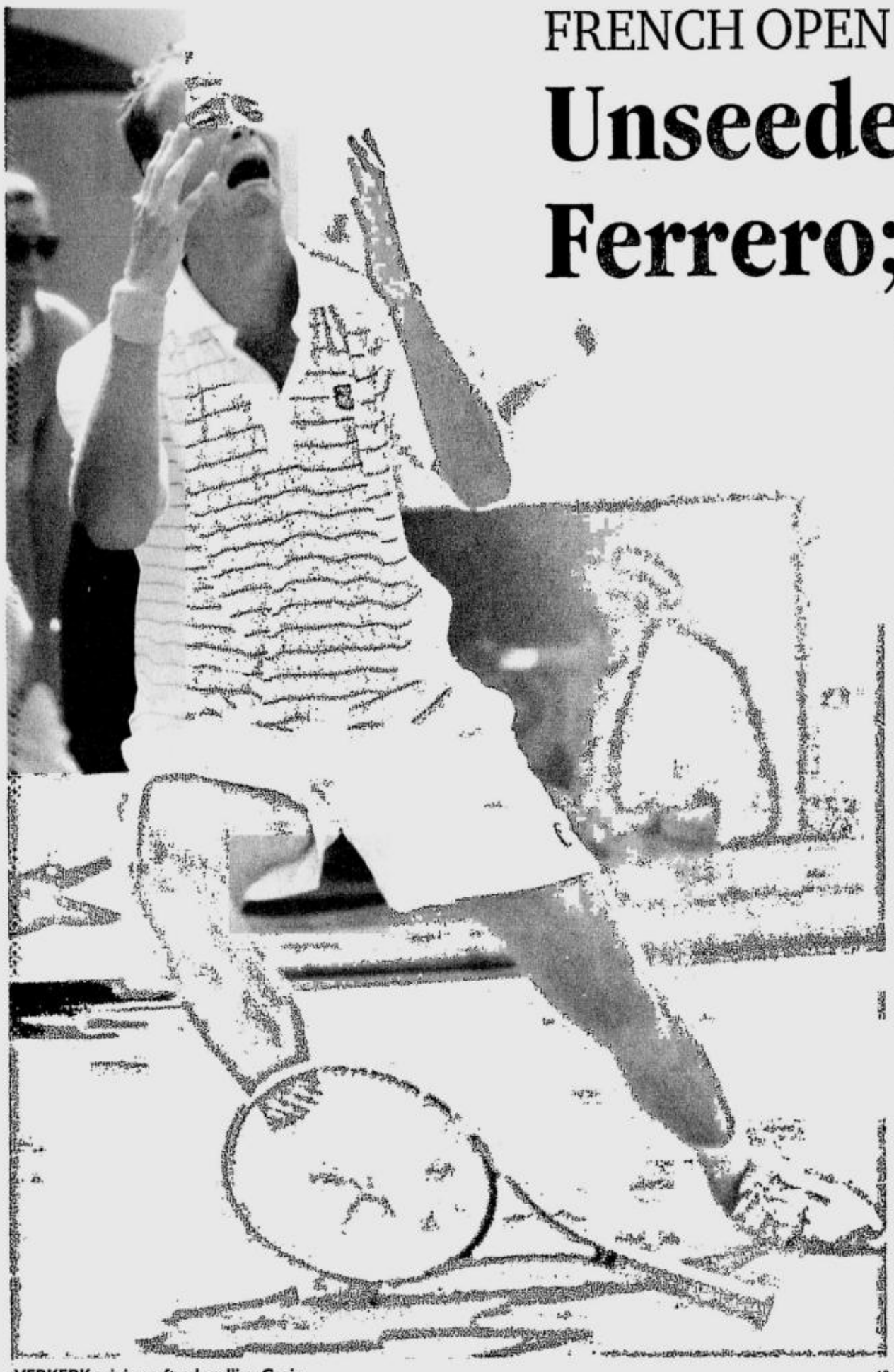
Sosa didn't comment when the suspension was announced, and Cubs officials said he would only answer game-related questions after Friday's game. But Cubs fans left little doubt what they thought of the suspension.

He was greeted with a standing ovation when he was presented with a proclamation celebrating his 500th home run before the game. And when he did his usual sprint to right field, there were loud cheers and shrieks–and just a few boos. *AP*



FRENCH OPEN

Unseeded Verkerk faces Ferrero; Henin cops title



VERKERK rejoices after hurdling Coria. AP

PARIS—Martin Verkerk is having the time of his life at the French Open.

No wonder he didn't want his semifinal to end when opponent Guillermo Coria risked disqualification by tossing his racket and hitting a ball girl.

The big-serving, loud-laughing Verkerk beat No. 7 Coria 7-6 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (0) Friday to become the first player since 1986 to reach the final in his Roland Garros debut. He's the eighth unseeded French Open finalist in the last 35 years.

"I cannot explain this. I mean, this is a dream," Verkerk said. "This is actually a little bit of a joke."

How improbable is the Dutchman's run?

As of two weeks ago, he hadn't won a Grand Slam match. He came in with a losing record in 2003, including a 2-9 stretch from February through April. In recent years, toiling in minor league tournaments, he considered quitting—twice.

Even he thinks it's "unbelievable," a word he used about half a dozen times after pounding Coria with 19 aces, raising his tournament total to 112.

"If you see me one year ago, I had difficult with volleys, I had difficult to run, I had a weak forehand. I had, actually, only a backhand and a serve," Verkerk said in his slightly fractured English. "So if you work hard, eat good, sleep good, physically in the gym, do all your things, something like this can happen."

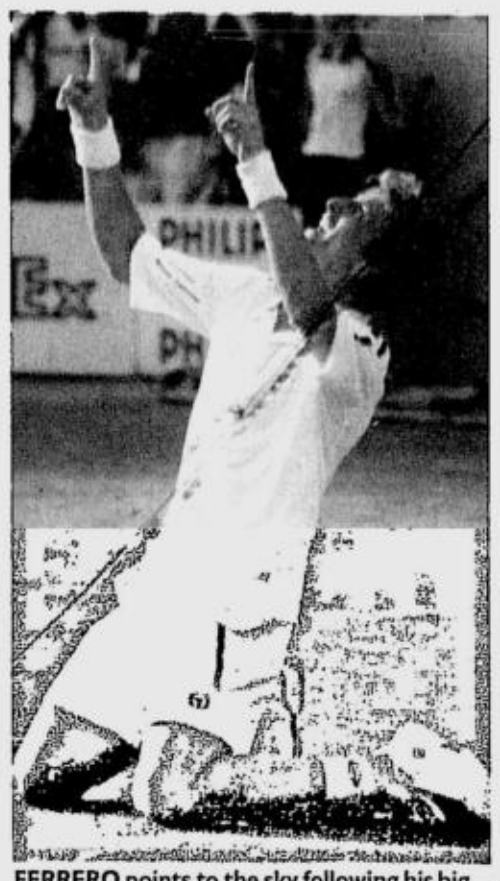
Then he paused and, breaking into guffaws, added: "I mean, maybe not like this, because this is too much."

On Sunday, he will face No. 3 Juan Carlos Ferrero, who beat defending champion Albert Costa 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in a rematch of last year's final. Costa couldn't muster what would have been a record fourth comeback from a two-set deficit.

"It's the end of the marathon," Costa said. "Sometimes you have to be realistic."

Verkerk, for one, is grounded. He'll return to the Netherlands next week to compete for a local club team.

"I signed up for that one year ago, when I was not, you know, so high-ranked. If I say something, I do it, and it's a nice team," he said earnestly. Then, laughing, he added, "We try to be Dutch champion."



FERRERO points to the sky following his big win over defending champion Costa. AP

Henin triumphs

Meanwhile, Justine Henin-Hardenne earned her first major title Saturday, beating Kim Clijsters in the first all-Belgian Grand Slam final, 6-0, 6-4, in the women's division.

Henin-Hardenne became Belgium's first Grand Slam champion, and she did it with surprising ease. Clijsters, seeded No. 2, failed to convert six break-point chances in the opening set and played 31 minutes before winning a game.

Henin-Hardenne won $958,000 and will climb to third in the rankings next week, surpassing Venus Williams. She's the first non-American Grand Slam champion since Mary Pierce won the French Open three years ago.

Clijsters received $479,000. *AP*

Funny Cide seeks TC sweep

NEW YORK—Funny Cide is being touted as America's horse, a flashy New York-bred red chestnut gelding who is two-thirds of the way home in his quest to win the Triple Crown.

Now comes the hardest part—winning the Belmont Stakes on what could turn into a wet, sloppy racetrack.

"I hope he smashes the field," says Penny Chenery, who owned 1973 Triple Crown champion Secretariat.

Funny Cide will have to overcome five rivals Saturday to become racing's first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978. But the rain in the forecast might jeopardize his chances.

Then again, Funny Cide could thrive in the slop.

"It doesn't seem to bother him in his training," Funny Cide trainer Barclay Tagg said Friday, one of the only days it hasn't rained here in two weeks. "He did run on a couple of fairly wet tracks and handled them all right, so I'd imagine he's OK with that."

There was a 70-percent chance of rain developing late on race day. Post time is 2238 GMT.

A muddy surface only increases potential problems for a horse, especially in the longest race of its life around the sweeping turns at 1½-mile (2.4 kilometers) Belmont. It could hinder Funny Cide's running style of longer and more powerful strides as the race goes on.

The even-money favorite had two effortless workouts over a muddy Belmont track—one in April, the other last week. And in the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct on April 12, he finished second to Empire Maker over a muddy, but drying, surface.

The gelding's win in the Kentucky Derby came on a fast track, his victory in the Preakness was over a track listed as good after heavy rains ended early on race day.

Of the 11 Triple Crown champions, only two encountered off-tracks in the Belmont—Seattle Slew won over a muddy surface in 1977 and Omaha won in the slop in 1935.

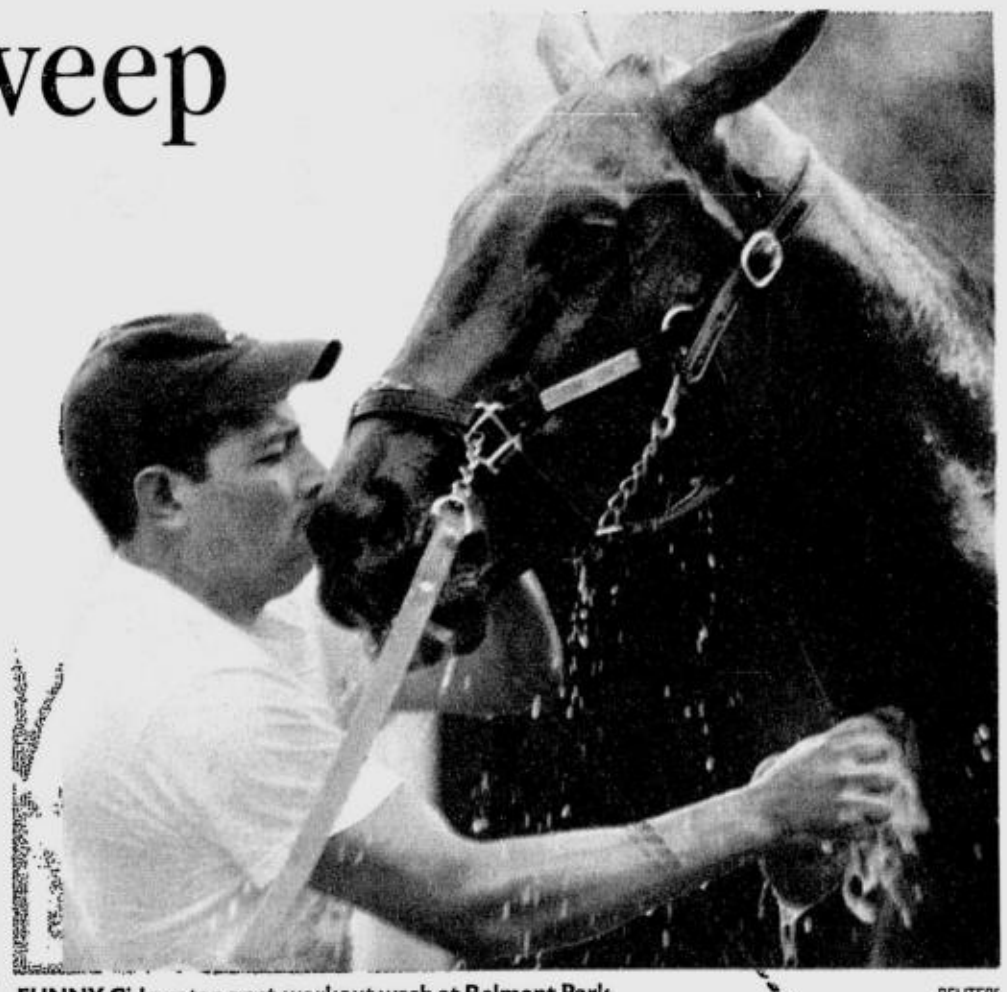
Rain or shine, Funny Cide makes his run at immortality with the home-track advantage, something he has in common with the last three Triple Crown winners.

After victories in the Derby and Preakness, Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed all trained at Belmont for the Belmont.

"We know every corner of the track," jockey Jose Santos said. "He's been working here since he was a 2-year-old. He's 3-for-3 here, and I've been riding for 18 years here."

Because it's rare for horses to run such a long distance, it's sometimes difficult for jockeys to judge the right spot on the track to make a move.

It's happened before with the Triple Crown on the line. *AP*



FUNNY Cide gets a post-workout wash at Belmont Park. REUTERS

The truth behind Don Paolo

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

CAGE star Paolo Mendoza wrote to air his side regarding PDI's exclusive story on Don Paolo which came out last Thursday.

In that story, Don Paolo, touted as the next track superstar, was protested by four owners whose horses are set to join the June 22 sweepstakes race, claiming Don Paolo was ineligible to run for being over the age limit.

Here's Paolo's letter:

Sir:

Good day,

I am one of your countless readers and I would like to react to the news story titled 'Horse-owners protest overage galloper' which came out last June 5 in the INQUIRER sports page.

In the interest of fairness and accuracy, I humbly request that your's truly be given the chance to air the truth behind my horse Don Paolo, which is a true two-year-old bay colt.

There's no doubt that you only have the welfare of the local horseracing industry in mind.

Let me assure your good office that being a professional basketball player and a horseowner, I follow the rules to the letter.

Here's the truth behind the age of Don Paolo. It's true that my colt bears a marking of 00 but as everybody within the industry knows, branding errors happen to all.

In an affidavit subscribed and sworn at Makati City on Feb. 1, 2002, farm manager Reynaldo G. Fernando admitted the branding mistake. Please take note that it wasn't just Don Paolo which had incorrect branding.

But the story doesn't end here. To determine the true age of Don Paolo, the Philracom sent representatives from the Bureau of Animal Industry, which handles the Stud Book Authority of the Philippines, to the Mendoza stable last June 4. It was a surprise visit.

Armando Escalante, farm superintendent III, Dr. Alejandro Cambay Jr., veterinarian IV, and Dr. Jose Noel C. Danao were unanimous in finding that Don Paolo was confirmed to be about 2 years old and not more than 3 years old based in dentition. Unlike in three years old as a male or colt, Don Paolo has no signs yet of canine development.

Then came the third and final inspection as ordered by the Philracom. Equine specialist and private practitioner Dr. Romy Modomo issued the veterinary certificate last June 5 confirming that Don Paolo, a bay colt by Medium Cool out of Vice Royal, was presented to his office for age determination. After a physical exam (dental), Modomo found that Don Paolo is a 2-year-old colt.

More power to you and your widely-read column.

PAOLO MENDOZA
Horseowner

***

How come Cycloneferros was disqualified for being a non-starter in yesterday's sixth race at Santa Ana?

That was the big question asked by the *bayang karerista.* Those who had Cycloneferros as their *parating* in the WTA and Pick-6 were fuming mad, cursing PRCI stewards whom they called "bobo" for making the decision. *Pa'no nga ba talaga nangyari yon?*

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph

Ouzo aims to pad win run

IMPORTED mare Ouzo hopes to extend her winning run when she joins the 2nd Mayor Jejomar C. Binay Cup today at the Santa Ana Park.

Coming from a decisive wire-to-wire victory in an open invitational race last month at the same track, the 5-year-old bay galloper by St. Cover out of Aniseed has so far chalked up five victories in succession since commencing her local campaign last February.

This time, however, she will be tested over a longer distance of 1,800 meters in anticipation of future track campaigns over the classic routes. Regular rider Jeffril Zarate, who's responsible for all but one of her victories, will once again skipper Ouzo as they target win number six and the P400,000 guaranteed winners purse.

Serving as supporting main event to the daylong festivities is the running of the P1-million PCSO Grand Championship Race set to be contested by seven classy 3-year-olds led by Triple Crown headliners Security Master and Success Story.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. King Size 2. Brainchild 3. Flying Strike 4. Aya's Star

Race 2—1. Order of Merit 2. Pitong Bakod 3. Master Strategist 4. Golden Treasure 5. Calvin's Magic

Race 3—1. Picture Perfect 2. Go Ichi 3. Ann's Magic 4. Honor Code 5. Reverie

Race 4—1. My Preperido 2. Serena 3. Lord of All/Art of Rose

Race 5—1. Strong Lady 2. Precious Stone 3. Arbiter 4. D Optician 5. Pep Talk

Race 6—1. Security Master 2. Success Story 3. Iverson 4. Namaste

Race 7—1. Dow Jones 2. Up Rising 3. La Signorina 4. Princess Inn 5. Cavite Starlet

Race 8—1. Ouzo/Lyonnais 2. Perfect Storm 3. Hyperbid

Race 9—1. Moore Magic 2. Harvesting Game 3. Michael's Way

SUBIC INT'L MEET

Kazakh, Aussie beat triathlon rivals

GAAG (right) leads Sapunov.

FORMER world champion Dmitry Gaag of Kazakhstan was stretched to the limit while Melissa Ashton of Australia was hardly challenged in topping their respective divisions in the 10th Subic Bay International Triathlon held recently at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Gaag, the 1999 world champion and currently ranked No. 8 overall, poured everything he's got in the run portion to beat countryman Daniil Supov in the Elite Men's Division down the stretch with an aggregate clocking of one hour 54 minutes and 49 seconds.

Hardly affected by jet lag and lack of sleep, Ashton timed 2:08:10 to keep the Elite Women's Division crown with plenty to spare as second placer Yokako Inoue of Japan could only tally 2:12:17 for the event consisting of a 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike and 10-km run.

Ashton, who arrived from Sydney only on the eve of the race and slept for just four hours, however, failed to surpass her winning time of 2:03:34 last year.

While the women's race was devoid of excitement, the men's competition was a thriller with Gaag wresting the lead for good from the 21-year-old Sapunov only in the second of the four-lap run.

Sapunov, the 2002 Asian Triathlon champion and world No. 108, led after the swim and bike events, but fagged out in the wake of Gaag's relentless pursuit in the run section to finish in 1:55:03.

Portugal's Bruno Pais wound up third with a time of 1:55:35, relegating 2000-2001 winner Daniel Chi Wo of Hong Kong to fourth place following a 1:56:14 clocking.

Japanese Junichi Yamamoto, runner-up in the 1997 and 1999 editions, emerged fifth in 1:56:47 while defending champion Australian Malcom Lyons settled for sixth in 1:59.10.

Completing the men's top 10 were Australia's Boyd Conrick at seventh (2:00:06), Hong Kong's Andrew Wright eighth (2:00:10), Hong Kong's Samuel Leung Ching Yin ninth (200:11) and Singapore's Marco Grillo 10th (2:095:43).

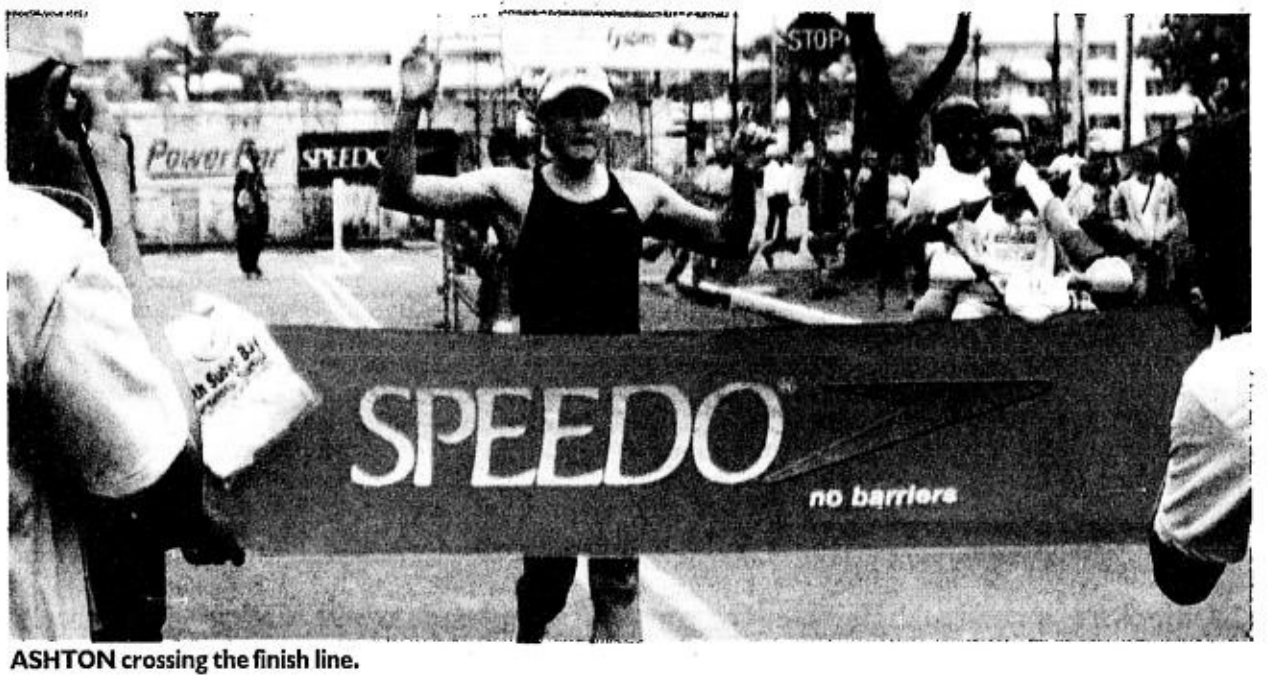
George Vilog and Ani Karina de Leon retained their respective crowns in the accompanying Enervon National Triathlon Championship. Vilog clocked 2:09:17 in the men's division while De Leon timed 2:27:30 in the distaff side.

The SUBIT, one of only 34 races all over the world where Olympic points could be earned by a triathlete, drew a crack field of 205 local bets and 25 foreigners.

It was organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines headed by Tom Carrasco and was supported by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Philippine Sports Commission, Speedo, Enervon and John Hancock Insurance Co.

In the junior categories involving 16-19 years old, Ricco Chan of Hong Kong topped the male category in 1:05:40. He was followed by Filipinos Jay-ar Obial (1:10:30) and Rafael Valdez (1:12:55) in the event involving a 750-m swim, 20-km bike and 5-km run. Laguna's Mimi Lucas prevailed in 1:20:47, towing Cavite's Astrud Valdez (1:21:12) and Alexandra Ganzon of the Visayas (1:24:32).

Roy Luarca



ASHTON crossing the finish line.

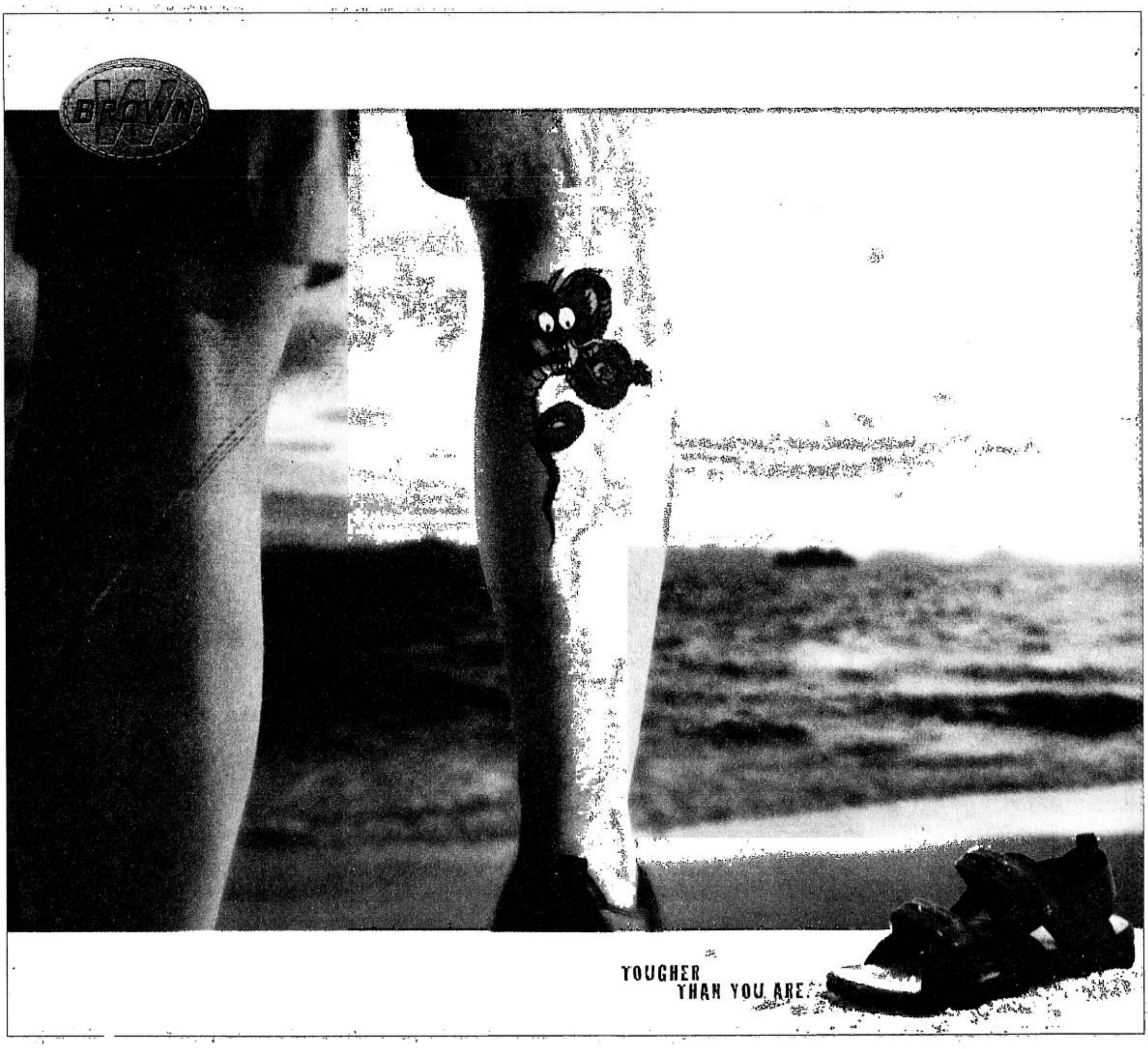
ALL smiles from the locals and foreign participants. Left to right, national female champ, Ani de LEon, Hong Kong's claire Murray and Nicole Rayson, international and national under 23 female champ Alessandra Araullo, elite female international champ, Melissa Ashton and bronze national medalist Lakambini Alto.

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A26

ANSWERS

1. False
2. Table tennis
3. Brazilian
4. Tommy Robredo
5. Climb Mt. Fuji
6. 11-2
7. 'The Hawaiian Punch'



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003
Sunday SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

RP pug fights another battle

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

AFTER failing to win the World Boxing Council flyweight crown,Randy Mangubat is fighting another battle to keep his WBC International title.

Randy's foe this time is WBC International championship president Mauro Betti of Italy, who had ordered Mangubat in an e-mail to relinquish the WBC International crown even before he fought defending WBC flyweight champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam Friday.

The Filipino fighter has decided to defy Betti, a member of the powerful WBC ratings committee.

"Bakit namin siya susundin. Sa regulasyon ng WBC International *ay walang sinasabi na ang natalo sa* regular world title fight *ay dapat o* automatic *na mawawalan ng* title (There is nothing in the rules of WBC International that says you lose the International title if you fail in a regular world title fight," said Yakichika Murayama, Mangubat's Japanese manager.

The WBC International title is for boxers ranked No. 11 and above.

Murayama pointed out that when former world champion Gerry Peñalosa failed to reclaim the WBC super-flyweight title from reigning title holder Masamori Tokuyama last December 20, the fighter of lawyer Rudy Salud remained the division's International champion.

The International title was declared vacant only when Peñalosa announced his retirement in January.

"Randy's case is similar to Gerry. Both failed in regular world title fights. So Randy should remain the international champion," added Murayama.

Mangubat, the WBC No. 10 contender, lost to Wonjongkam by unanimous decision. The Filipino pocketed $7,000 in his first world title fight.

In the undercard, Thai Sarikalek Ekarin scored a unanimous 10-round decision over Filipino and WBC No. 15 Arman dela Cruz to reclaim the WBC Youth light-flyweight title.

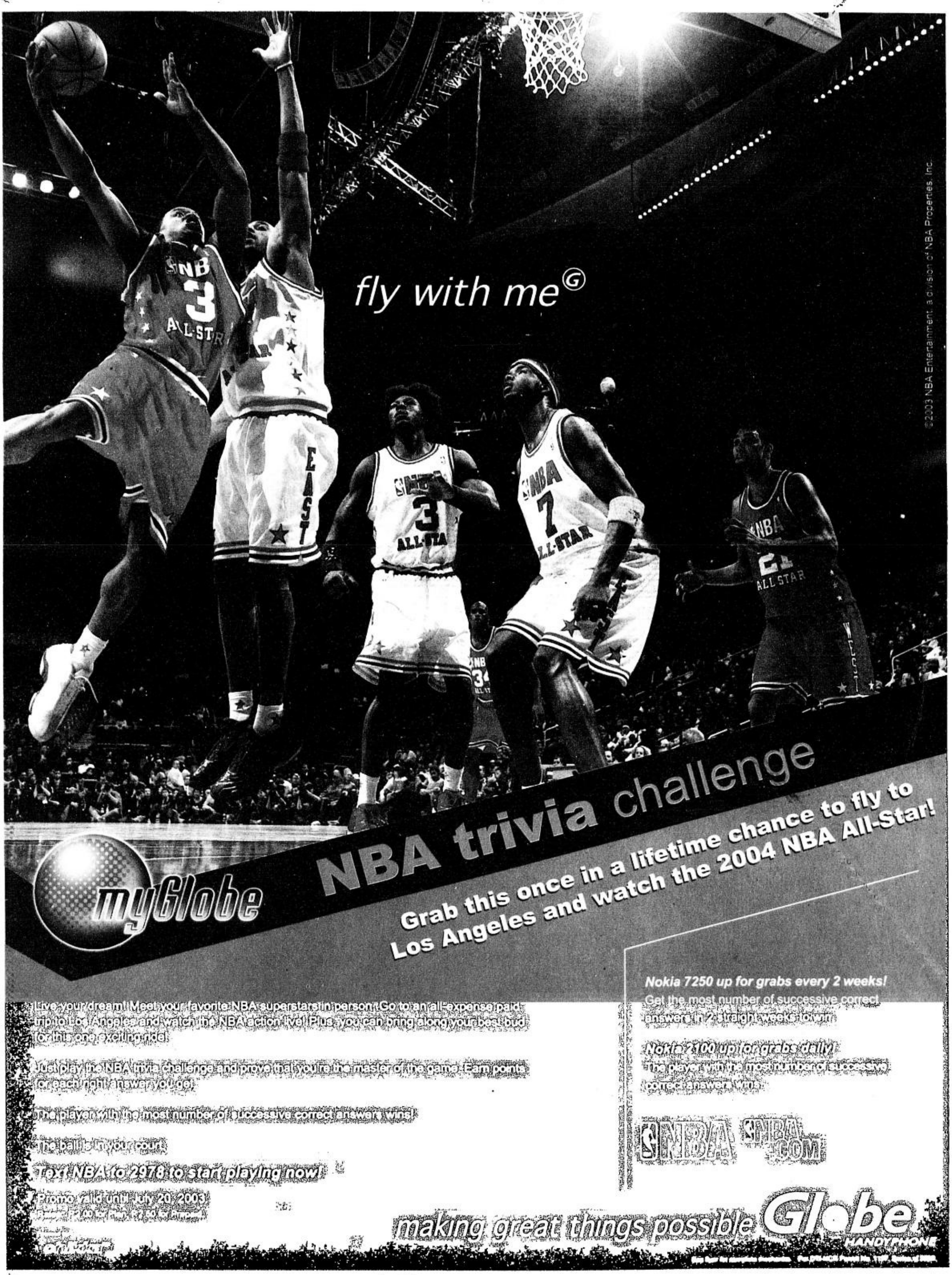
49 Pinoy bets seeing action in Asian GP

FORTY-NINE Filipino bets, picked by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association to fill reserve slots, hope to cash in on this opportunity when the fourth and last stop of the Asian Grand Prix organized by the Asian Athletics Association unwraps tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

Leading the local hopefuls are 2001 Southeast Asian Games gold medallist Ernie Candelario in the 400 meters, John Lozada (800-m), long jumper Joebert Delicano and javelin thrower Dandy Gallenero.

But Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista, the 3,000-m steeplechase and 5,000-m gold winner in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG, will miss the competition because his favorite distance events were scratched by organizers.

Patafa chief Go Teng Kok, said he is optimistic long jumpers Lerma Bulauitan Gabito and Maristella Torres would perform beyond expectations before the hometown crowd.



Sunday BIZ

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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'Nobody can achieve anything alone'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

FOR the first five years of his working life, he hardly saw the sun. Not that he worked in a mine or was a dungeon prisoner, only that he would leave the house at dawn and go home by sunrise.

Vicente R. Ayllon, chair and president of the Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd., used to work for a company in Tondo that made and exported rope. It was located along the Muella de la Industria by the Pasig River.

"My work was at the warehouse where I was in charge of making an inventory of the deliveries of rope from the factory, and then seeing that they were packed in jute sacks to be loaded on barges in the river and then to the ships that would bring them to the provinces or to different parts of the world," he recalls in a speech delivered at the LUA Congress recently.

His first job was as supervisor of the rope firm, which meant he was picked up from his house at the crack of dawn to open the factory, and then was in charge of padlocking it.

First job

As if being on his feet the whole day supervising the shipments was not enough, Ayllon would walk 5 kilometers to the University of the East to attend night classes. During the first two years of college, he was a football scholar.

Responsible breadwinner

He says his first serious goal in life was to become a responsible breadwinner. "And I felt the way to do this was to get a good education. And so, to be able to continue my studies in college, I developed my athletic skills in order to earn a scholarship. After that I decided to transfer to UE's evening classes so I could be a working student and contribute more to the family finances."

He and a friend would walk together to UE but before going to class they would have supper at a restaurant called Hen Wa beside the Avenue Theater on Avenida, Rizal, "which served the best mami and siopao in town."

Although balancing work and school was tough, Ayllon admits that he was getting good pay and would give half of his salary to his mother. "Something I continued to do for a very long time."

At that time, he was earning about P650 a month. That was the period when jeepney fare was 10 centavos, a chop suey rice meal was 80 centavos and a car could be bought for P6,000.

Life was not always easy for the 72-year-old. When he was seven, his father died from complications due to appendicitis.

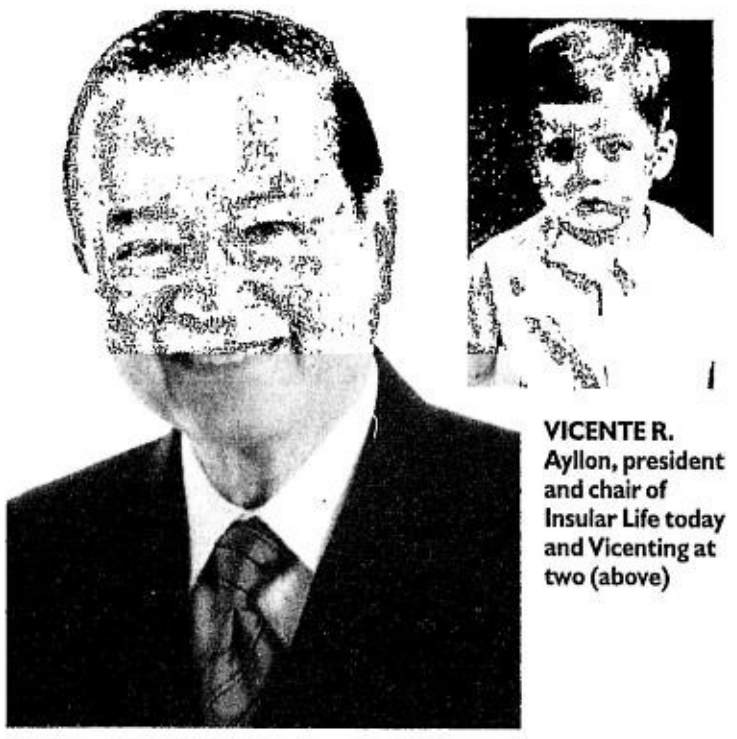
"While he was alive, we were a family of modest means, but when he died life became really difficult. I remember my brother and I would wear hand-me-down clothes from my mother's side of the family."

But his mother eventually remarried and life became a little easier.

Early learnings

Ayllon recalls that work at the rope factory was hard "but the pay was good, and the biggest dividend I got from those five years was the experience of working with the company's laborers, the *obreros* who would physically lift bales and bales of rope day in and day out. These were people from the lowest rungs of society, but it was from them that I learned all about decency, loyalty,

NOBODY B2



VICENTE R. Ayllon, president and chair of Insular Life today and Vicenting at two (above)

'Lesser used' wood species gives hope to farmers

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GUMACA, Quezon—The potential of an indigenous tree species has been explored as an innovative approach to help solve poverty in this area.

Federico Ocampo, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources community environment and natural resources officer in Gumaca, has encouraged the planting of the malapapaya tree, locally called "bonliw," one of the so-called softwoods in the area.

"It is now in big demand for export to Japan," Ocampo said.

Malapapaya, whose scientific name is *Polycias nodosa* (Blume) seeman and which belongs to the *Araliaceae* family, is a tall tree reaching 25 meters and a diameter of about 50 centimeters.

It is an indigenous species in Gumaca and neighboring towns. It can be propagated by seeds and grows in open thickets and second-growth forests as well as within coconut plantations.

Multiple uses

Malapapaya wood is used in the manufacture of toothpicks, chopsticks, sticks for frozen products such as popsicles, ice-cream spoons, tongue depressors, medical spatulas, wooden pallets, tool handles, boxes and crates and plywood, among many other uses.

"Its potential as a tool for economic development is endless," Ocampo said.

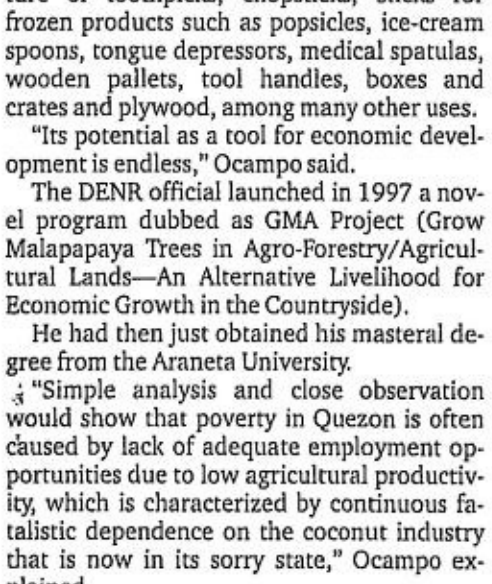
The DENR official launched in 1997 a novel program dubbed as GMA Project (Grow Malapapaya Trees in Agro-Forestry/Agricultural Lands—An Alternative Livelihood for Economic Growth in the Countryside).

He had then just obtained his masteral degree from the Araneta University.

"Simple analysis and close observation would show that poverty in Quezon is often caused by lack of adequate employment opportunities due to low agricultural productivity, which is characterized by continuous fatalistic dependence on the coconut industry that is now in its sorry state," Ocampo explained.

Based on government statistics, over 55,909 hectares of coconut plantations in Gumaca and neighboring municipalities make up 68 percent of the total land area.

LESSER/ B2



PHOTOS BY DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A FACTORY worker strips a 'malapapaya' of its bark before slicing it into veneer form.

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'Nobody can achieve anything alone'

From page B1

commitment and humility."

However, while he had very good relationships with the workers—drinking with them, visiting their homes, learning about their dreams and aspirations, "I could not say the same of my relationship with some of my bosses."

His bosses were foreigners who were hired by the firm's owners. He wanted them to be more concerned about the employees.

There would be days when orders from the United States, Europe and Singapore would come at the same time so the factory would work 24 hours to complete the orders.

During these times he would work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday for four to six months.

"At that time there were no Sunday evening Masses so I was missing out on my Sunday obligation. On one December day, in my fifth year, a very high-ranking executive of the company passed by the warehouse, so I took the opportunity to ask him if on Sundays I could come to work one hour later at 8, and then I would also go home at 8, so I could attend Mass at 6:30 a.m."

The response of the executive was, "Who pays your salary, God or the company?"

Naturally the young Ayllon replied, "The company."

"Then you come to work at seven," replied the executive.

Moving on

That was when he decided to leave. His position when he resigned was assistant to the manager.

He landed in the insurance business when a former classmate sold him a policy and told him there was an opening at Insular Life.

He was hired as a junior clerk, taking a huge salary and position cut. His first pay at Insular was P49.50 a week.

"But even then I knew there were some things more important than money."

It was not long before he caught the attention of Jose Olbes, who later became the president of Insular Life and whom Ayllon considers a major influence in his career.

He would join training programs attended by trainee-instructors who were already versed on the issues being discussed, yet he would still end up in the top three of the classes.

"At group insurance I often accompanied our agents and assisted them in selling group insurance policies. In the process I made a lot of them rich and happy. All they would do was get me an appointment with their corporate prospects and I did the rest. Very soon, Insular Life became the leader in group insurance." And I became the head of the division.

That was when he got the attention of the big bosses of Ayala, which owned Insular, in particular Don Enrique Zobel or EZ.

Because of the promise he showed, he was one of a team of three sent to Spain when Ayala organized a life insurance company. The venture failed and Zobel recalled him when sales of group insurance began flagging.

Zobel proposed to the firm's president that Ayllon be made head of sales. When he assumed the post, production shortage was half of the total goal.

"It seemed almost impossible to make our goal. But we worked very hard. I personally visited each district in Metro Manila and the provinces in order to encourage and motivate the agency force."

IN 1987, Ayllon hands over the final installment of Insular Life's mutualization payments to Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

The agents responded and for the first time in many years, Insular Life reached its goal.

"You would think that my career in life insurance would go on smoothly after that, but no, the Zobels had other plans."

He was assigned to Ayala Corp. where he was placed in the real estate division that eventually formed Ayala Land Inc.

"I was made in charge of real estate, then to that he (EZ) added the commercial centers division; then building administration, and then, since I was the one who negotiated the land lease contracts for the Peninsula, Mandarin and Nikko hotels, he also placed the hotels division under me."

One of his favorite projects was the original Greenbelt—with the Ayala Museum and the Aviary.

"Being directly under Don Enrique further enriched my experience. From him I learned so much about what true leadership is all about. He also valued people's time and was a stickler for punctuality with regard to appointments and in the observance of office hours."

Moving higher

Once more he was enjoying his work at Ayala. "I had reached one of the highest positions that a non-family member could get, so I thought that was it."

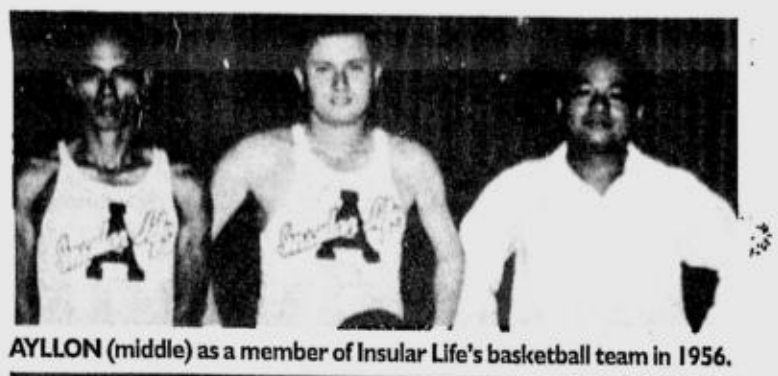
But EZ had other plans. "One day in December 1976, EZ called me to his office and dropped the bomb."

He asked Ayllon to head Insular Life. "I was a good soldier and would go wherever he needed me most."

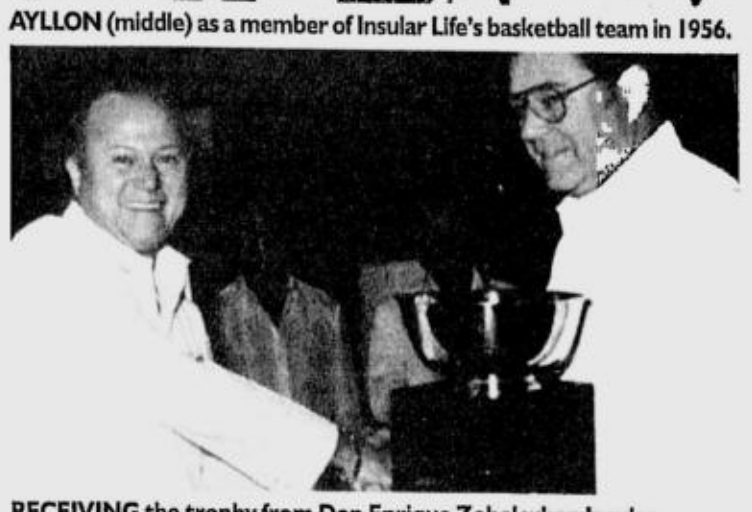
In January 1977, Ayllon took over the reigns of Insular and was placed in charge of its mutualization. (Mutualization means transferring the ownership of a firm from its stockholders to its policyholders.)

Guide posts

Ayllon has remained a formidable figure in the insurance industry to this day. Observers note that even the CEOs of larger firms still come to him for advice.



AYLLON (middle) as a member of Insular Life's basketball team in 1956.



RECEIVING the trophy from Don Enrique Zobel when Insular became over-all champion for the third consecutive time in the athletic competition of the Ayala group.

In his speech, he shared his learnings from 50 years of work: "Nobody can achieve anything alone. No one can claim to achieve success all by himself, whether in a career or in one's personal life. And no victory, no success can be claimed by just one person. Other people help you become what you are, other people help you become a better person. Other people help you achieve your goals. To achieve what you are seeking and to help you get ahead in life it is therefore very important to know how to treat and deal with people. People must always be treated with kindness and respect and always deal with them fairly, and with sincerity."

Ayllon also lists his four simple guide posts:

First, love God with all your heart.

Second, love your neighbor as God loves you, which means do not harm, lie to, steal from, deceive or take advantage of your neighbor.

Third, take care of, love and respect your parents; after all, they were the ones who brought you into this world.

And finally, and this is the most difficult, but once done will make you feel so much better—forgive completely and sincerely all those who have offended you.

"In the final analysis, the only thing that matters, is that in this life we should strive to do as much as we can for our fellowmen. We come into this world with nothing and we will leave it with nothing."

'Lesser used' wood species gives hope to farmers

From page B1

'Timber poaching and illegal logging activities in the area have been greatly reduced because of the malapapaya industry'

"With the continuous decline in the price of copra, the situation is an impending social volcano brought about by economic frustration," he said.

He dismissed fishing as an alternative livelihood opportunity because of the low fish catch due to damaged coral reefs and mangrove areas.

"Given the bleak situation, there is no other option left but to look for what the environment could offer. It's basic for all environmental protection advocates to scout for indigenous stuff in the area and explore its beneficial potentials," Ocampo said.

And that was how he discovered the malapapaya tree and its promising prospects.

Halt to illegal logging

Ocampo spearheaded the formation of Gumaca Woodcraft Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc., an organization of coconut/farmers landowners, marginalized wood-based users and upland farmers that would collectively work toward self-improvement and community development with the malapapaya as the catalyst.

The Gumaca Woodcraft Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. manufactures all kinds of tool handles, boxes, crates, wooden pallets and many other wood-based industrial products for the local and international market.

"There is still a big demand for wood pallets in major production companies in the country. They still prefer wood over plastic pallets because of the high-breakage with the latter due to easy slippage of loaded products," Ocampo said.

Milleth Severa, cooperative president, admitted that most of their members were formerly involved in illegal logging but have all stopped when introduced to the promise of the indigenous malapapaya.

The cooperative maintains a processing and treatment plant beside the nursery where seedlings of malapapaya and other lesser-used wood species are being propagated for distribution to the members.

With Ocampo's office at the forefront, the DENR staff conducted a massive information and education drive about the bright potential of the malapapaya tree.

Ocampo's workers also provided assistance in the identification of malapapaya and other "lesser used species," including the process of seed collection, seedling propagation in the nursery, planting, maintenance and protection of established plantation.

Businessmen's role

After setting up the groundwork that would ensure the steady supply of malapapaya as raw material for commercial production of its wood-based products, the local environment official invited several businessmen and offered the promising business climate in the area.

OCAMPO inspects the malapapaya seedlings.

"Cenro Ocampo invited us to put up our plant here in 1998 after our Cavite factory was burned," said Jonathan Linglemco, 35, owner of Progress Wood Product.

He put up the factory on a 1,000-square-meter portion of the four-hectare premises just beside the road in a barangay outside the poblacion.

"The rest of the area are all planted to malapapaya," he said.

The factory produces chopsticks, tongue depressors, popsicle sticks and toothpicks, among many others.

"We used to export our chopsticks to Korea, Japan and Singapore, but we were eased out by much cheaper products from China," Linglemco lamented.

A group of Filipino-Japanese investors behind the MP Wood Philippines Inc. also opened a malapapaya-based plant in 2001 upon Ocampo's invitation. The company manufactures TAN PAN materials or veneer from malapapaya, which are exported to Japan.

Economic impact

"With that positive development for the malapapaya, we're soon going to make a dramatic rebound in our export earnings from malapapaya-based products," he predicted.

Linglemco disclosed that he had recently received several business queries from Latin America.

Ocampo said the local demand for the wood as raw material for the three malapapaya-based production plants in the Gumaca area is about 7,500 cubic meters to a maximum of 12,500 cubic meters.

He predicted that the volume is expected to increase in due time as the demand in both the local and export market is expected to increase.

According to Ocampo, the introduction of malapapaya economics has created livelihood opportunities for some 717 people directly involved in the operation of the cooperative, aside from the 300 workers employed by the two processing plants.

"It has brought a remarkable economic impact for thousands of farmers in the area, what with the present price of mature malapapaya trees that now fetches P1,400 per cubic meter. And the harvest is a year-long activity," he said.

The local government also generated a significant amount of revenue from the operation of malapapaya-based factories.

Ocampo noted that with the presence of ready buyers for mature malapapaya trees, timber poaching and illegal logging in the area have been greatly reduced.

He pointed out that with the initiation of malapapaya potential-consciousness among loggers in the area, "over dependency on our prime hardwood tress like the dipterocarp species was lessened, thus preserving our rainforest that is habitat to many endemic and endangered fauna."

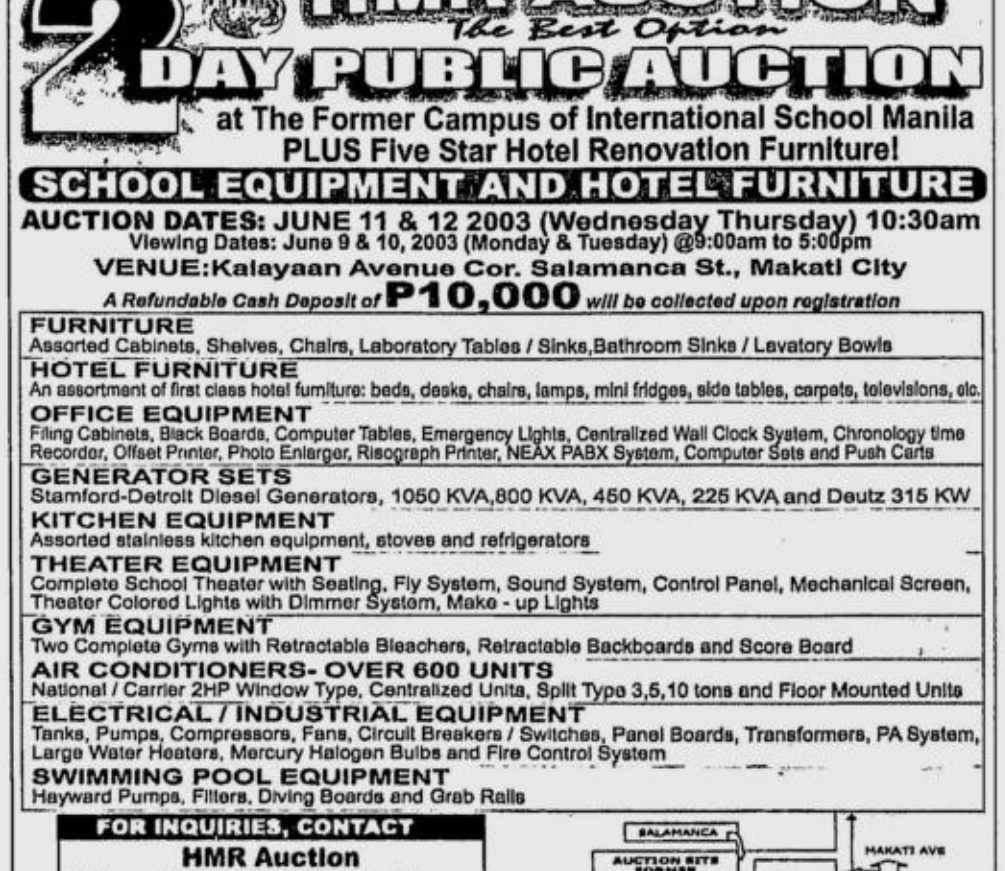
Ocampo also pointed out that with the diversion of the economic activities of the people from timber poaching/illegal logging, to the establishment of malapapaya plantations, "it somewhat lessened the cost of forest protection on the part of the government."

Ocampo told the INQUIRER that at present, the wood supply from the malapapaya is still adequate because the volume requirements needed by local industries are still at its minimum level.

However, as the demand for malapapaya-finished products increases, the demand for raw materials is also expected to increase, the environment official predicted.

Ocampo said he is now also exploring the potential of other lesser-used wood species like "batino" and mahogany.

"With these foreseen bright developments, it's imperative that the government and the private sector join hands to assure the sustainability of the malapapaya-GMA project," he said.



Farmers show going green is good business

By Cyrain G. Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

TONGONAN, Southern Leyte—Tapping the earth's resources often has damaging effects on the environment and the lives of people. This happens when the exploitation of nature's goods and landscape is equated with progress and economic growth.

Fully aware of these consequences, the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), which operates the Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF) here, has embarked on sustainable programs oriented toward ecological compatibility and qualitative improvement of human living condition by organizing farmers' associations.

These farming communities have since become PNOC-EDC's most effective partners in environmental protection. They have also reforested close to 2,000 hectares of the 107,625-hectare PNOC-EDC exploration and geothermal reserve in Leyte since 1994.

Of the 22 farmers' association in Leyte, the Tongonan Farmers Association (Tofa) enjoys phenomenal success. It has bested other PNOC-assisted associations throughout the country. It is on the top ten list of the Aboitiz Foundation.

In 1998, it was given the "Most Outstanding DOLE-Registered Rural Workers Association in Region 8" award.

The following year saw Tofa harvesting more awards like the Bayaning Pilipino Award from the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and the Ugnayan at Tulong para sa Maralitang Pamilya (UGAT) Foundation, and "Hall of Famer for Most Outstanding Firm with Family Welfare Program" Award from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regional office in Eastern Visayas.

That same year, one of the Tofa officers Romula Regala, received the "Filipina First: Centennial Salute to Community Leaders" title from the Philippine-American Foundation.

Tofa has come a long way since its DOLE accreditation in 1989. It is a classic example of how man thrives out of the earth's bounty and co-exists with it harmoniously. It has created jobs for more people without altering the ecosystem.

Timely intervention

The LGPF's hulking turbines billowing forth silvery-white steam and the crawling huge pipes are truly a wonder to behold from a distance. But what is truly amazing are the lush foliage and vegetation along its rough terrain, which are wanting in many big establishments in the field.

Truth to tell, this fertile ground was almost transformed into a desert overnight had it not been for the timely intervention of PNOC-EDC.

Before Tofa's inception, its members, ironically, were themselves *kaingeros* (slash-and-burn farmers) and illegal loggers who used to forage the hills for food and wildlife.

"We have no choice then because we have no other means of livelihood," incumbent Tofa president Elpidio Versoza says. "Besides, we never thought that wild animals would dwindle and our forests would go bald someday."

Versoza, 52, has been a Tofa member for 13 years. He also worked as a security guard at the LGPF from 1995 to 2002. He was Tofa's president in 1997. He was able to send his four children to school because of the association.

"I could stop working anytime now because my kids have decent jobs already but this association has been part and parcel of my family's welfare, so I will stick around as long as my limbs could endure it," he adds.

Asuncion Ayud, a 72 year-old member, seldom utters a word as she only finished Grade 3. But this humble widow is one of the pillars of the association and one of the 45 founding members.

After serving and being reelected as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, she prides herself now on being one of the auditors of the association. She successfully supported the education of her three grandchildren.

"I am more than content with my life. At least my grandchildren never experienced the hardships of our slash-and-burn days," she says.

Tofa now has 236 active members, a couple of millions worth of properties and capital buildup and 48 hectares of land to its name.

What started as social forestry projects such as rattan, abaca, and tree plantations mushroomed into livelihood support projects like money lending, rice and crop production, livestock raising and handicraft.

Today, Tofa is not only a farmers association but also a savings and loans association. It even has its own youth and women's clubs. It has also put up its own convenience store for the members' daily needs, a basketball court and a video-cum-sing-along house for their recreation.

Moral foundation

PNOC-EDC extension officer Francisco Moralde attributes Tofa's success to the members' moral values and sense of ownership.

"This association respects the dignity and rights of every member. There is freedom of expression yet slander and infidelity to one's spouse spell automatic expulsion to the offender. Moreover, members no longer consider themselves as contract workers but landowners."

Moralde says that bonding and team leadership was almost impossible at the start for the majority was unschooled or simply indifferent.

"They used to work because they expect to get paid at the end of the day. Now, they labor because they believe that their future lies in these vast lands. In fact, they have benefited a hundred of times already for being good stewards and they can lead decent lives even without the company's assistance because they are now self-sufficient," he says.

The company, however, continually gives team building and leadership training seminars including simple bookkeeping and financial management to the association.

In 1992, Tofa was granted the Community Forest Stewardship Agreement by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources allowing exclusive ownership of harvest as well as the maintenance and protection of the area for 25 years open for renewal of contract for another 25 years.

TOFA members have been converted from 'kaingeros' to forest stewards.

SOME Tofa officials with PNOC-EDC partners.

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

BPI launches 'Express Deposit'

NOW, clients of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) can make a deposit on a machine and the amount will be credited right away.

The BPI Express Deposit Machine, launched April 15 at the BPI main on Ayala Ave., Makati City, can process transcations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will take in up to 50 bills at one time in denominations of P100, P500 and P1,000.

So far there are five BPI Express Deposit Machines, one each at the BPI main, Family Bank main, Glorietta BPI Express Banking Center in front of Tower Records, SM BPI Megamall branch, and BPI New Alabang Branch.

Normally, clients making a deposit with an ATM machine are required to put the cash in an envelop and insert the envelop into a slot. While there is no question about the convenience the scheme provides, clients have to wait for some time for the deposit to be credited, usually up to the next day when bank personnel make their rounds.

With the BPI Express Deposit Machine, the deposit is credited, 'real time', as the transaction is completed. To begin a transaction, a client only needs to insert his or her Express Teller Card and key in the PIN number. After these initial steps, he or she will have to insert the bill or bills into the slot intended for the purpose.

"It is a simple process," says Andre Flores, assistant vice president, "with the machine telling the client what keys to press to complete the transaction."

The BPI Express Deposit Machine, once the right keys are pressed, will forthwith display the number of bills received on the screen, the amount of each, and the total deposit made - and issue a transaction receipt.

If the client changes his or her mind, he or she needs only to press the right key and the machine will return the bills. It will also reject bills other than those of the required denominations.

According to Ma. Lourdes Claravall, senior vice president, the BPI Express Deposit Machines are the only ones of their kind in the country, and plans are afoot to install more and widen the reach of services. In the meantime, ATM machines will continue to accept deposits the usual way.

Claravall adds that clients can use the BPI Express Deposit Machine to load their Express Cash Card.

PLDT, CENTERSTAGE AND MAWF-P UNITE TO HELP CHILDREN

PLDT, Centerstage Production and Make A Wish Foundation Philippines (MAWF-P) united in raising funds to help grant wishes of children with life threatening diseases. Standing (from left), Kahlil Bagatsing, MAWF-P, marketing head; Jun Magdangal, CEO, Centerstage Production; Jolina Magdangal; Yam Marquez, PLDT, marketing assistant; Kristine Ignacio, PLDT, senior product manager; Gigi Astudillo, PLDT, senior manager for sales. Seated (from left) Celine Madamba, MAWF-P, president and Jon Jon San Agustin, PLDT, vice president for marketing.

WELCOME ADDITION TO THE GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

Amid the massive facelift that the country's favorite place for bargain shopping Greenhills Shopping Center is undergoing, is a project that will make the place even more convenient to shop. In a few month's time, frequent shoppers should be delighted to see a three-level parking building with a strip of restaurants and retail shops rise at the parking lot along Connecticut St. The groundbreaking took place last April 23. Among the shops and restaurants that will open are Max's, Bangus, Mingoy's, Café Mediterranean, Sorabol, Hua Lan, Globe, Lolo Mao, Seattle's Best, Yellow Cab Pizza, Toby's, Goodies and Sweets, Pacsports and many more. The construction will begun in May and will end in August in time for the target opening on September. Present during the first concrete pouring ceremony are (from left) Ortigas & Company general partner lawyer Ignacio Ortigas, Toby's Sports' Roberto Claudio, San Juan Vice Mayor Leonardo Celles, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, Ortigas & Company chief operating officer Rex Drilon and Northwest Steel Contractor president Mario Montejo.

How to stop arthritis pain

LIFE they say, is full of aches and pains. For millions of people with arthritis, living can be a nightmare since the disease causes much suffering and misery. Arthritis is the inflammation of the joints and is a common chronic health problem in many parts of the world. It isn't a single disease but a group of diseases characterized by pain, swelling, stiffness and redness in one or more joints. There are over a hundred forms of arthritis with a host of causes, but the most common forms are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Osteoarthritis commonly occur in adults over 45 due to the long-term wear and tear on the joints. The joints are normally cushioned by an elastic tissue called cartilage that allows the bones to move smoothly against one another. When the cartilage deteriorates, the bones rub together, causing pain and swelling.

Rheumatoid arthritis may strike at any age, but it occurs most commonly among people in their 20s and 30s and is found three times more often among women than among men. It is an autoimmune disease in which - for unknown reasons - the body's immune system attacks joints, tissues and body organs. In addition to pain and joint stiffness, symptoms may include a decreased appetite, fatigue and fever. The disease may disappear within a year but when symptoms return, they are often more severe.

While there is no cure for arthritis, you can ease the pain and live a normal, productive life with the right medication. Aspirin is commonly prescribed for arthritis but irritate the stomach. The same is true with traditional nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like mefenamic acid and naproxen. While the much hyped about COX-2 inhibitors appear to cause fewer gastrointestinal problems like ulcers, they are more expensive and may increase a person's risk of heart attack. What's more, COX-2 inhibitors aren't necessarily more powerful in relieving pain than traditional NSAIDs.

To help arthritis sufferers cope with their condition without giving them stomach problems, Multicare Pharmaceuticals Philippines Inc. recently introduced Idyl SR - the ideal therapy for pain and inflammation.

Idyl SR is the one and only ibuprofen tablet scientifically formulated with the superior Matrix Tablet Technology that works rapidly to relieve joint pain and stiffness but is gentle on the stomach. Unlike traditional NSAIDs that work for 9 hours only, Idyl SR contains the ideal dosage of 800 milligrams of ibuprofen that is gradually released in the body to provide long-lasting pain relief of up to 15 hours without irritating the stomach. Unlike COX-2 inhibitors, Idyl SR's anti-platelet activity dissolves clots and plaques, thus preventing cardiac risks.

Since it acts faster and lasts longer than other drugs, Idyl SR is convenient and easy on the pocket. It is ideal for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, dysmenorrhea, migraine, dental pain and post-operative pain. For more information, call Multicare at 811-0636.

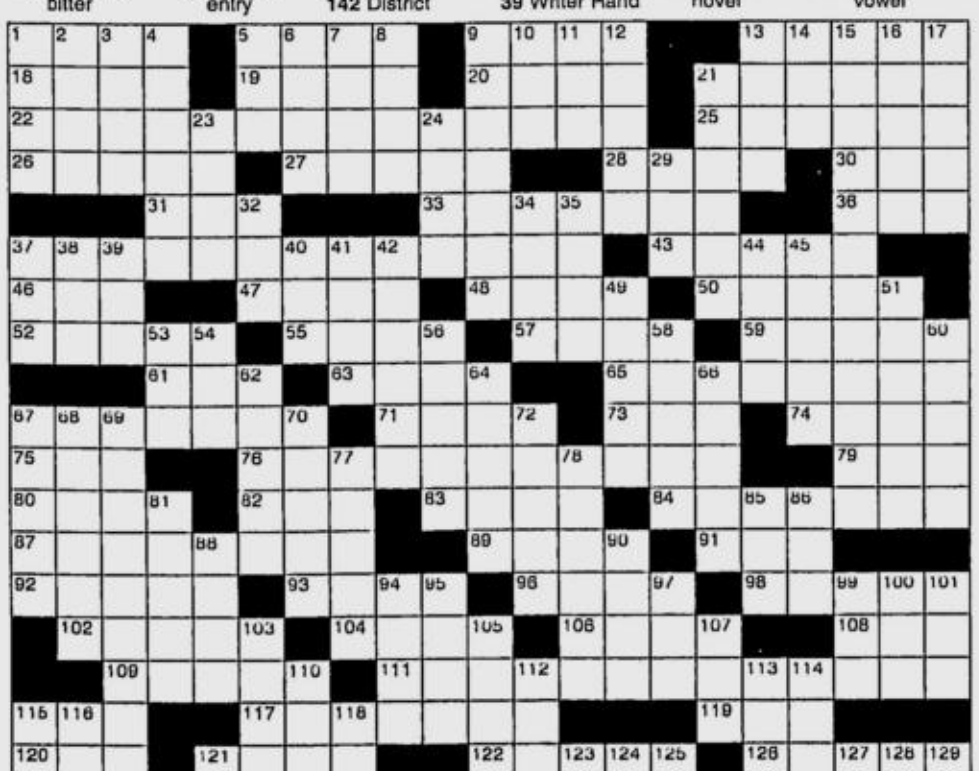
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

SPAGHETTI WESTERNS

ACROSS
1 Apples lightly
5 Helicopter sound
9 Swedish rockers
13 "Whole — Love" ('69 hit)
18 Guinness or Baldwin
19 Actress Skye
20 Chrysler competitor
21 Toils
22 "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Ragazzo" star?
25 O'Neill's "The — Cometh"
26 New Hampshire city
27 Postpone
28 Leaf part
30 Married Mlle.
31 Tarbell or Lupino
33 Theft
36 Spring mo.
37 "Duello at Diablo" star?
43 Punjabi princes
46 Ornamental vine
47 It may be bitter
48 Blue hue
50 The very bottom
52 Tijuana title
55 "Star Wars" Skywalker
57 Fawn's father
59 Pride of lions?
61 Be a pest
63 Actress Helgenberger
65 Alaric, for one
67 Easily read
71 Kedrova of "Torn Curtain"
73 Unwell
74 Gulf ruler
75 Part of EEC
76 "The Tin Stella" star?
79 Wrath
80 Fateful 15th
82 Demolished a Danish
83 Rain hard?
84 Incorporated, as territory
87 Smith or Jones, e.g.
89 Junket
91 Petite pooch
92 Forster's "— With a View"
93 Evaluate
96 Level
98 Account entry
102 Have — over one's head
104 "My Sweet —" ('70 smash)
106 Debtors' letters
108 Indefinite pronoun
109 Baal and Elvis
111 "Rosso River" star?
115 Funnyman Philips
117 Hailing from Haifa
119 Paw part
120 Once around the track
121 "Peter Pan" pirate
122 Pound the podium
126 Stallone role
130 Puts up
132 "How the Ovest Was Won" star?
136 Actress Tyson
137 Poker stake
138 Peter and Gordon song, e.g.
139 Small combo
140 Asian capital
141 Tavern staples
142 District
143 Prophet

DOWN
1 TV's "— Shadows"
2 Bum remedy
3 Neuwirth or Daniels
4 Picturesque
5 Humor
6 Car part
7 Memo start
8 Scuba site
9 Insult
10 Derisive cry
11 "It's freezing!"
12 Confuse
13 Tablecloth fabric
14 UK honor
15 "Riders of the Purpureo Sage" star?
16 Vagabond
17 Ed of "Lou Grant"
21 Tripoli native
23 Change the decor
24 Earl — Biggers
29 Hockey's Bobby
32 Current unit
34 Honey bunch?
35 Wild child
37 "M*A*S*H" extras
38 "— been had!"
39 Writer Rand
40 Vinegar's partner
41 Dejected
42 Detergent ingredient
44 Actress Gertz
45 Saying
49 Linda of "Alice"
51 Join the leisure class?
53 Kimono closer
54 Massage
56 Fromm or Segal
58 Comic Radner
60 Start the slaw
62 Shimmer
64 Rub it in
66 Distort
67 Camera company
68 Writer Welty
69 "The Grande Country" star?
70 Go in
72 Blazing
77 Kidney-related
78 De Havilland or Hussey
81 Hair net
85 Start to snooze
86 Spud bud
88 Melville novel
90 Menial laborer
94 Tiberius' threads?
95 A Great Lake
97 Sister
99 Lad
100 Bed and breakfast
101 Pigskin prop
103 Poorly made
105 Costello or Del Rio
107 Use a straw
110 Compass pt.
112 Neighbor of Tenn.
113 Welt's opposite
114 Modifies
115 Vote in
116 Lanza or Lemieux
118 "King Lear" role
121 WWII site
123 Verdi opera
124 — de force
125 Fencing weapon
127 Full-grown filly
128 Soft cheese
129 Scent
131 Dodger Ron
133 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
134 Giant legend
135 Greek vowel



answer on page 13

New bathroom creations from AS

DISTINCTIVE new products from American Standard, the world leader in bathroom and kitchen products and designs, aims to reinforce the brand's position as the trusted household name in modern living.

A mix of products catering to the high-end and middle market range promises to bring to more Filipino households the American Standard benefits of style, performance, and quality.

In the luxury line are three elegantly sculpted pieces: the Minis Close-Coupled Dual flush RF, the Tizio One-Piece Dual Flush and Camille Dual Flush, one of the most luxurious in its class.

One outstanding feature present Tizio and Minis water closets is the American Standard "Clean Seat." These water closets are equipped with new "Microban" seat and cover. "Microban" is a globa-leading brand that specializes in providing built-in antimicrobial protection into various products, keeping them cleaner and fresher to use between cleanings. The anti-microbial ingredient is infused directly into plastics, liquids and textiles to protect against the growth of bacteria that causes contamination and odor.

American Standard created an innovative product realizing water conservation, the Dual Flush Water Closet Push Button Actuator. These products in style with your bathroom ideas are very functional in saving water. Save water in 2 ways: push the left button using only 3 liters of water to flush liquid wastes, and the right button consuming 6 liters to flush solid wastes.

Aside from these are two other new products that fall under the economy line: the Corvette Round Front Water Closet for the economy line and the Aqualyn Close-Coupled Elongated Water Closet.

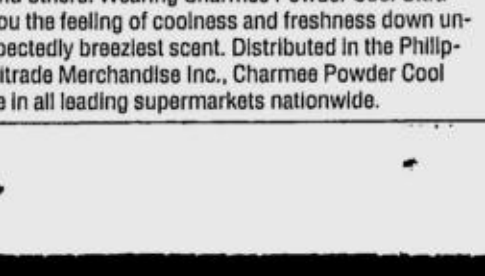
All these products add on to the exceptional line of American Standard.

BEAR BRAND AT PHILTRANCO

Last Holy Week, Bear Brand Sterlized tied-up with Philtranco and conducted a selling activity at the Philtranco Edsa / Pasay City station. Busy motorists received a free fan if they purchased two 250 ml. Bear Brand Sterilized ready-to-drink (RTD) tetra packs, and a free pillow if they purchased four RTDs.

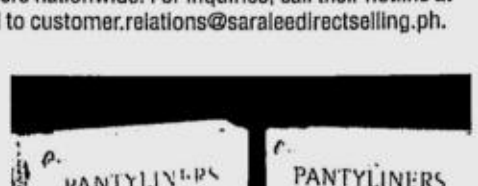
ProductFILES

Sara Lee launches Sanex



SARA Lee Direct Selling - Philippines launched the Sanex line of toiletries and skin care products. Known worldwide for its mild and dermatologically-tested formulation, the Sanex line includes its facial moisturizer, purifying tonic, facial wash, dermprotector hand and body lotion, roll on deodorant and body wash. The use of products from Sanex body care range helps protect the skin from dehydration and maintain its elasticity. Sanex is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly known as House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call their hotline at 810-5402, or send email to customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

Cool and Charmee



CHARMEE is today's brand for young girls who want to feel fresher and cooler all day. Charmee Powder Cool is the newest variant of Charmee Pantyliners that free the users from irritating feeling brought about by stress such as pressure from school, caught in a traffic jam and others. Wearing Charmee Powder Cool Ultra thin pantyliners gives you the feeling of coolness and freshness down under. It also has an unexpectedly breeziest scent. Distributed in the Philippines exclusively by Unitrade Merchandise Inc., Charmee Powder Cool pantyliners are available in all leading supermarkets nationwide.

Bits & Clips

Honda World 2003

RIGHT at the heart of the Glorietta Activity Center lies the world of Honda. Organized by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI), is the Honda World 2003. Creative Movers For The New Generation started festivities with a Mardi Gras followed by the much anticipated Honda World Show last June 3. The Honda World is set to conclude today. Other highlights are the daily Honda World show, the colorful Mardi Gras and live bands. Honda genuine parts and accessories maybe availed at any special prices. Weekend activities will focus on providing entertainment for the whole family especially the kids. After all, it is never too early for kids of the next generation to feel and witness the Wonderful World of Honda.

Making the job interview

"ACE that Interview, Start Your Career Right", a workshop seminar on Effective Business Communication: Making that Job Interview, will be conducted by Businessmaker Academy at Tektite on June 13, Friday will guide participants on how to prepare and conduct themselves for job interviews. Topics include: skills assessment, resume writing, job search techniques and selection, business / phone etiquette, professional image enhancement, salary negotiation and career planning. With a video recording for instant feedback. Inclusive of snacks and drinks. For inquiries, visit www.businessmaker-academy.com or call 687-4445 / 687-3416 for reservations.

A June to remember

ON JUNE 14th, big laughs that might literally bring, The Venue down, come your way as esteemed singer-comedian Nanette Inventor (with special guest, the equally gifted Jon Santos) headlines in "Xtra Laff". Davaoenos and its visitors who may have put a bit of holiday weight would do well to attend this laff-fest. Besides, laughter does wonder for the abs and light our hearts, and that's no joke; we let the jovial chemistry of Inventor and Santos take care of that department. So where else do we go for the finest music and comedy in the one of the hottest tourist destination in the archipelago, that is Davao? The Venue: Davao's hottest entertainment hub for your unforgettable June spree.

No business (nudge-nudge!) at golf clubs?

NEW YORK—President Calvin Coolidge may well have said the business of America is business, but he never mentioned golf, which has gone hand-in-glove with corporate activity for over a century.

The cozy twosome, featuring US presidents sharing greens and golf-carts with captains of industry for generations, has hit the rough recently as a result of economic woes and post-Sept. 11 terrorism fears.

And now the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) recent $1.4 billion settlement with investment houses to keep research separate from banking activities, has the business world worried about restrictions on "schmoozing" with clients—traditionally done on the golf course or at the 19th hole.

Lehman Brothers was so concerned about violating SEC guidelines it canceled a golf outing this month to Scotland's famed Gleneagles after an investors' conference in London.

"Are they going to put microphones on players? Is the government going to tell people what they can talk about?" asked Larry Dorman, a spokesman for the Callaway Golf Co.

"It (SEC) may prevent analysts from schmoozing but it will have no impact on when other businesspeople meet. There's an awful lot of business that goes on in country clubs."

He noted that generally there are codes of conduct at various clubs, like no cell phones at Augusta National, and deal-making on the actual links is frowned on.

"Certainly there is a nod and a wink, where clubs say members can't conduct business," said Mark Murphy, editor of Golf World Business, a trade publication. "But is golf still a very important part of business culture? Absolutely.

All-male club

"For example, Pine Valley in New Jersey is one of the best courses in the US, an all-male club with a genial atmosphere where members are not supposed to transact business.

"But if a member invites a client down and they play a couple of days and eat there, of course, that's business." Patricia Stephenson, who owns a business consulting firm in West Palm Beach, Florida, and specializes in golf-business etiquette, said: "Business shouldn't be discussed on the golf course, period. (However) everybody knows that everyone you meet (on the course) is a potential business deal."

The SEC ruling may be specific to analysts, but what about sales meetings at golf clubs, Murphy asked.

"I did it myself last Friday, I invited two VPs of sales and marketing as guests to my club. We spent a number of hours together and we talked about business."

Golf and business are so inexorably linked that Business Week magazine publishes a golf supplement twice a year with Golf Digest magazine, reaching more than 1.5 million subscribers who frequent the boardroom and the locker room.

Regardless of how the rule will affect business culture, it comes at a time when the $38-billion-a-year golf industry finds itself in a bunker, after years of smooth putting.

Some resorts catering to golf-playing executives are feeling the pinch as corporations cut travel and entertainment expenses, the golf equipment industry is essentially flat and courses are lowering fees as fewer rounds are played.

'Tiger mania'

Analyst Casey Alexander of Gilford Securities blames it on big expectations from the dot-com boom and "Tiger mania."

"The last several years have been difficult for the golf equipment industry," he said. "There was an assumption of growth based on the popularity of Tiger Woods."

But the number of golfers in America has stalled at around 25 million, forcing club and ball makers to battle for market share. "Of every three people who take up golf, two quit within a year. The game is hard, it ain't ping-pong," he said.

In his opinion, people who play to advance their careers or make business connections, often don't stick with golf.

Stephenson said more women were taking up the game as a way of raising the "grass ceiling" in corporate America. "It was definitely an all-boys world until the last 10 to 15 years.

"More women are playing golf for networking purposes," said Stephenson, a charter member of the Executive Women's Golf Association, which has 15,000 members in the United States.

"But people shouldn't play golf unless they have a passion for the game. If they try to use it as a business tool they must learn the rules and the etiquette, or it can backfire." *Reuters*

GINGER de la Fuente, home care division manager of Rustan's, and Lorenzo Gella II, area implementation marketing manager of Shellane.

Gas delivery service turns four; gives new services

SHELLANE Hatid Bahay, the country's first centralized LPG delivery service, celebrated its fourth anniversary recently. Coinciding with the anniversary was the introduction of its new value-added services for its customers, the 7-point Safety Check and the Reminder Service.

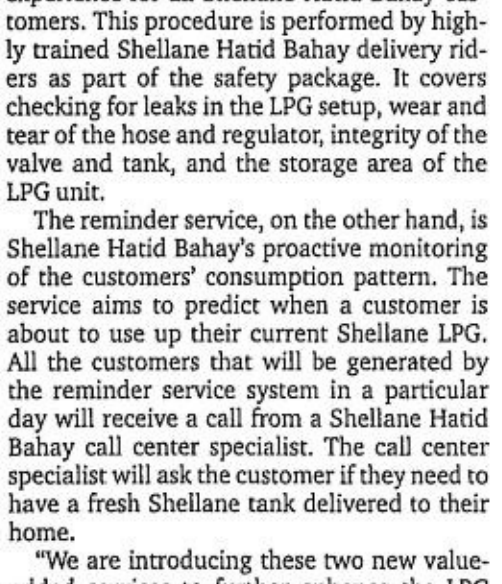
The 7-point safety check program is being introduced to ensure safe and worry-free LPG experience for all Shellane Hatid Bahay customers. This procedure is performed by highly trained Shellane Hatid Bahay delivery riders as part of the safety package. It covers checking for leaks in the LPG setup, wear and tear of the hose and regulator, integrity of the valve and tank, and the storage area of the LPG unit.

The reminder service, on the other hand, is Shellane Hatid Bahay's proactive monitoring of the customers' consumption pattern. The service aims to predict when a customer is about to use up their current Shellane LPG. All the customers that will be generated by the reminder service system in a particular day will receive a call from a Shellane Hatid Bahay call center specialist. The call center specialist will ask the customer if they need to have a fresh Shellane tank delivered to their home.

"We are introducing these two new value-added services to further enhance the LPG buying experience of our customers," said Lawrence Gella, Shellane marketing manager.

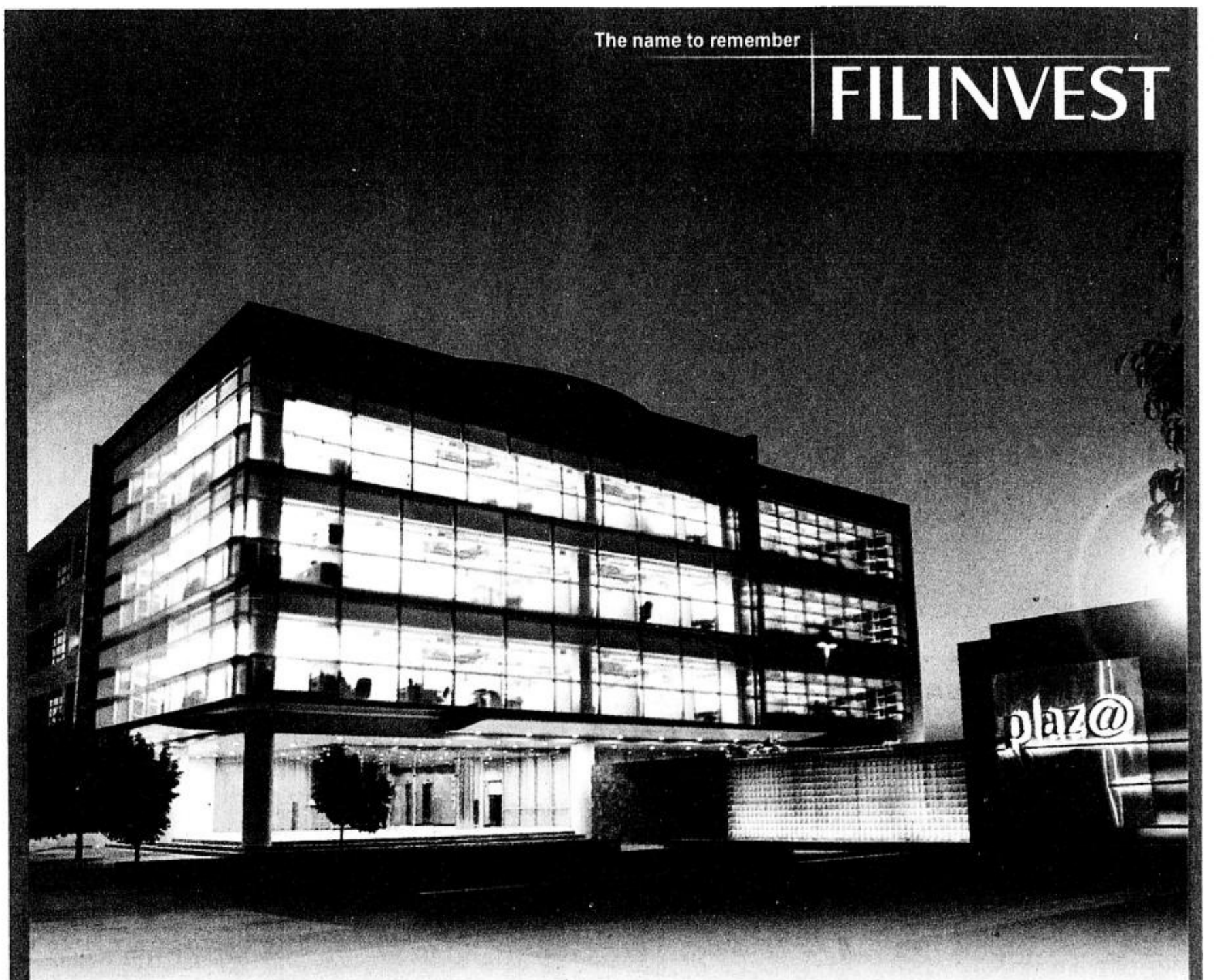
"With the 7-point safety check, our customers are assured that their home and family are safe and secure. The reminder service will ensure our customers that they will never experience running out of LPG again," added Gella.

The 7-point safety check and the reminder service can be availed of by dialing the Shellane Hatid Bahay number 887-5555.



LERIC Sotelo, marketing and business executive development; and Anne Chua, LPG customer service supervisor.

The name to remember
FILINVEST



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 DARKNESS FALLS	1 DARKNESS FALLS	ArtFilm WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 ANG TANGING INA 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 8:00, 11:30	3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG TANGING INA	WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	4 DARKNESS FALLS
	5 THE REAL CANCUN	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 DARKNESS FALLS 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15	5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
	6 ANG TANGING INA			
	7 THE MATRIX RELOADED			

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2 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	ANG TANGING INA
5 GOLD	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DARKNESS FALLS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	PAKNER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

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2	BIGAY HILIG
3	PAKNER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
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2	PAKNER
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	DARKNESS FALLS
5	BIGAY HILIG

METROPOLIS star
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3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNER
5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2	ANG TANGING INA

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Center Plaza Cinema
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2	THE MATRIX RELOADED

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
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1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	BIGAY HILIG
4	

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Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	DARNESS FALLS
4	SPECIAL SCREENING FOR FESTIVAL
5	PAKNER
6	ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS)	BIGAY HILIG
8 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY)	THE REAL CANCUN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6 (DOLBY)	DARKNESS FALLS
7 (DTS)	REAL CANCUN
8	FRIDA
9	KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1	BIGAY HILIG
2 (SDDS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PAKNER
4 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	DARKNESS FALLS

Gotesco Ortigas
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1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALLS
4	BIGAY HILIG
5 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal
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1 (DOLBY)	DARKNESS FALLS
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4	PAKNER
5	BIGAY HILIG

FRC Cinema
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1	
2	

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1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA

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7	MATRIX RELOADED

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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3 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4	PAKNER

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3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	

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Magic Star Cinema
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Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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Lianas MovieCity
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2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALL
4	KIKAY
5	PAKNER

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SEX AND ZEN

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tel (049) 249.2558

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SEX AND ZEN

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PHONE BOOTH
4	PAKNER

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1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3	RESERVE

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3	ANG TANGING INA
4	RING - 0

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS ES)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	DAYO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

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7	BIGAY HILIG
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

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8	PAKNERS
9	DARKNESS FALLS
10	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

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3	FRIDA
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7	DARKNESS FALLS
8	BIGAY HILIG
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	AGENT CODY BANKS
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12	THE REAL CANCUN

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5	AGENT CODY BANKS
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7	BIGAY HILIG
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9	ANG TANGING INA
10	THE VERDICT
11	PAKNERS
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3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	THE REAL CANCUN
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7	AGENT CODY BANKS
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	DARKNESS FALLS
11	PAKNERS
12	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	THE REAL CANCUN
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7	DARKNESS FALLS
8	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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5	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
6	ANG KAPITBAHAY
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	DARKNESS FALLS
9	PAKNERS
10	BIGAY HILIG

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3	A MAN APART
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
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7	ANG TANGING INA
8	SO CLOSE

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3209422

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2	CLOSED
3	SO CLOSE
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	CLOSED
8	SOULKEEPER

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7128015

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3	ANG TANGING INA
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5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	PAKNERS

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2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS

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2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO
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1	A MAN APART
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3	ANG TANGING INA
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6	SO CLOSE

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1	ANG TANGING INA
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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3	RING 0
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:35/2:40/4:45/6:50/ 8:55/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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6	ANG TANGING INA
7	DARKNESS FALLS

e Metro East - Marcos hway
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1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	REAL CANCUN
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	PAKNERS
8	BIGAY HILIG

e Novaliches
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2	ANG TANGING INA
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3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	DARKNESS FALLS

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2	REAL CANCUN
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	BIGAY HILIG
6	ANG TANGING INA

e Sta. Rosa Laguna
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2	DARKNESS FALLS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	KIKAY
5	PAKNERS

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2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SO CLOSE
4	PHONEBOOTH
5	RING 0
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DARKNESS FALLS	**FRIDA**	**BRUCE ALMIGHTY**
PG13	R18	PG13
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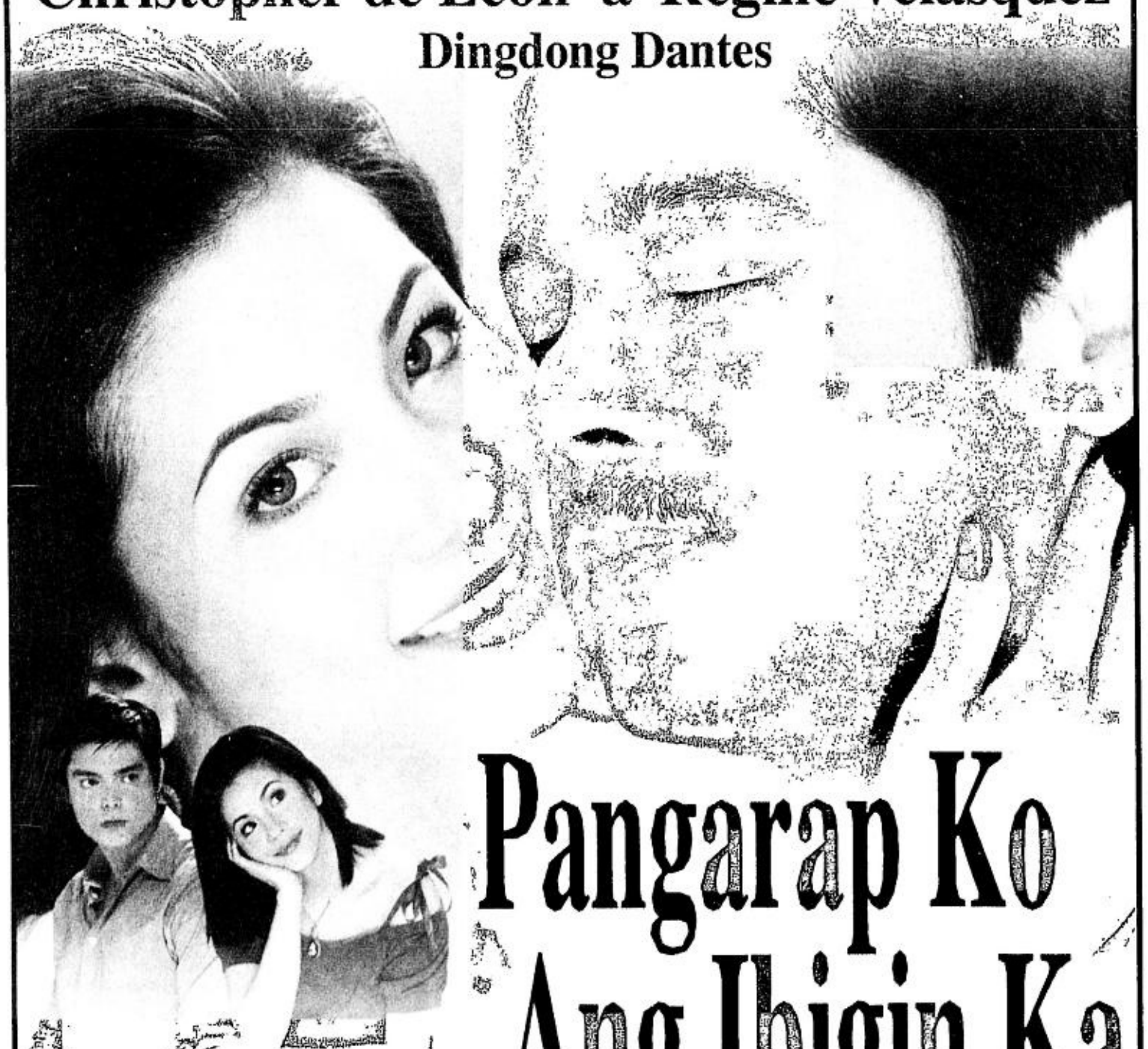

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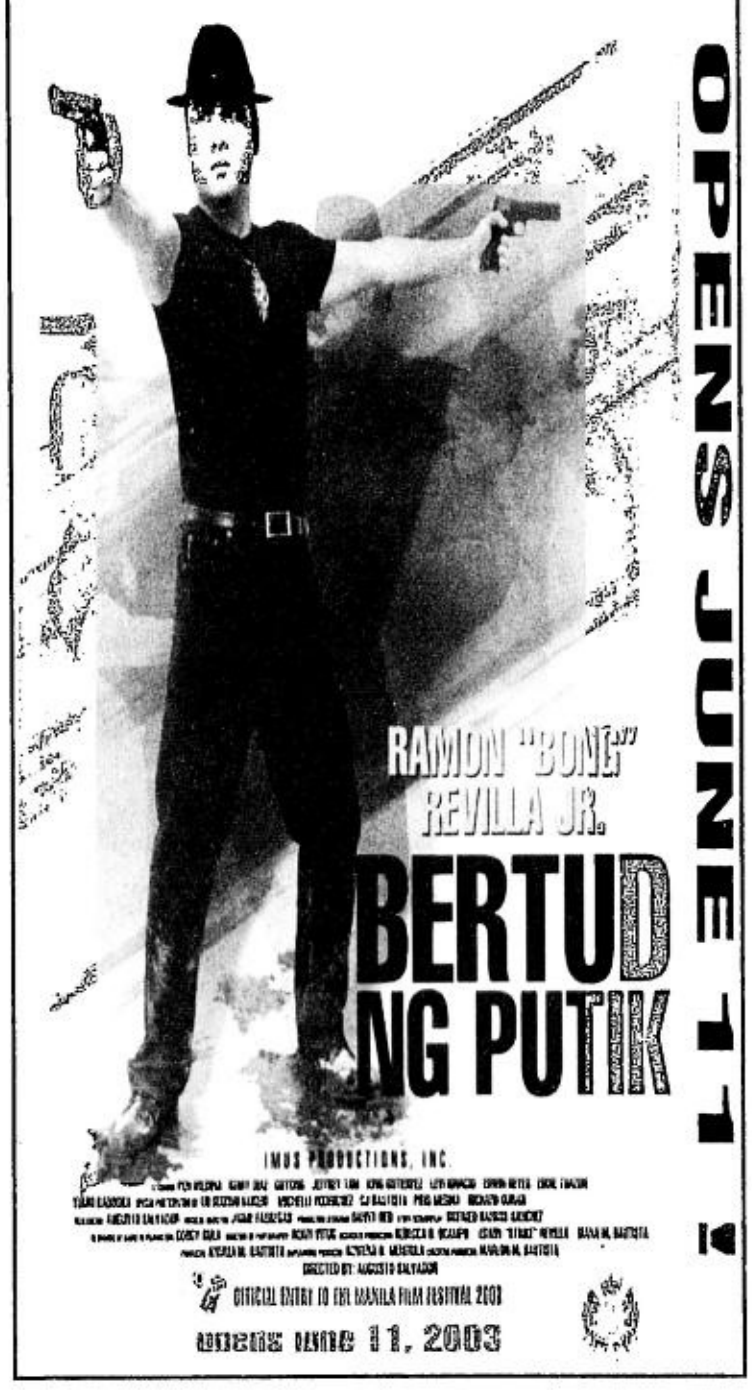

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6 Thse/Unit A-8 Baler Luxery Townhomes, Baler LA 129 / FA 258 **Min Bid - P3,813,000**
7 4 Sty H&L/ 394-A Sangandaan,Novaliches LA 218 / FA 721 **Min Bid - P4,100,000**
8 Res Thse/Unit-B,Beethoven St, Ideal Subd LA 26.64 / FA 53.28 **Min Bid - P689,000**
CAINTA, RIZAL
9 Thse/U-A 3rd St Gruar Subd / LA 69 / FA70 **Min Bid - P881,000**
TAYTAY, RIZAL
10 2 sty Bldg/Rd Lot 4, Ciudad Del Sol II, Sta. Ana / LA 137.50/FA 65 **Min Bid - P980,000**
ANGONO, RIZAL
11 Res Lot/Lot 6 Blk 2 Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Estates Ph-III Mission Hills,Brgy Mababang Parang/LA 540 **Min Bid - P1,677,000**
12 Lot/L1 B6,#168 Ilang-ilang cor Gumamela Sts , Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd / LA 598 **Min Bid - P1,122,000**
MARIKINA
13 Lot/Lot 10 Blk 40 Odessa St, Rancho-3 Est-3, Cupang/LA 300 **Min Bid - P765,000**
Cottonwoods Heights Baguyo, Antipolo
14 Lot/L2 B5 / LA 228 **Min Bid - P1,373,000**
15 Lot/L6 B2 / LA 246 **Min Bid - P1,481,000**
16 Lot/L23 B10 / LA 266 **Min Bid - P1,762,000**
17 Lot/L21 B2 / LA 355 **Min Bid - P2,351,000**
PARANAQUE CITY
18 H&L/L11 B1 Camia St, UPS IV / LA 302/FA 179 **Min Bid - P1,900,000**
19 H&L/42 Rosary St Annex 30, Remman Vill / LA 511 / FA 307 **Min Bid - P3,931,000**
20 H&L/57 Hawaii St Betterliving Subd LA 328 / FA 311.71 **Min Bid - P3,064,000**
21 Condo/ Unit 21-D Cleveland Tower, Asiawid City/FA363.94 **Min Bid - P13,514,000** *with LIS PENDENS
LAS PINAS
22 2 Sty Thse/Lot 15 Aranda Cmpd Talon 1 LA 52 / FA 58 **Min Bid - P740,000**
23 2 Sty Thse/Lot 10 Aranda Cmpd Talon 1 LA 50 / FA 58 **Min Bid - P740,000**
24 Thse/ Unit 7, Emma Yuhico St, Union Villas Thms BF Resort Talon 2 LA 69 7 / FA 101 **Min Bid - P 1,223,000**
25 Thse / Unit 10 Union Villas Thms BF Resort LA 69 40 / FA 101 **Min Bid - P 1,299,000**
26 Thse/U-13 C Union Villas Thms/ LA 57.6/FA 94 **Min Bid - P 1,325,000**
27 H&L / 39 Guada Sanchez St. BF Resort Vill LA 128 / FA 97 **Min Bid - P 1,265,000**
CAVITE
28 H&L/ L15-A B5 Rosalia Subd, Brgy Habay Bacoor/LA 152/FA 206 **Min Bid - P1,866,000**
29 Lot/L16 B1, Mia South woods Res Estate,Baybay,Cmona/LA 1,224 **Min Bid - P5,200,000**

RESIDENTIAL
TARLAC
30 H&L/Lot 2,3,13&14 B32 San Rafael Homesite TLA 1,164 / FA 219.62 **Min Bid - P2,200,000**
QUEZON PROVINCE
31 H&L/L17 B3 Lakandula St, Tuazon Subd Tayabas/LA 180/FA 165 **Min Bid - P777,000**
BULACAN
32 H&L/L7 B9 Micah St Sarmiento Twnvile Pob SJDM / LA 80 / FA 48 **Min Bid - P228,000**
33 Apt/5-door/725 Sitio MatangTubig, Lote Bo. Guyong,Sta Maria LA 150 FA 150 **Min Bid - P660,000**
34 Apt/2-sty/30 door/ M. Santiago Road, Llas Bo. Ibayo, Marilao LA 434 / FA 575 **Min Bid - P3,925,000**
MAKATI
35 Condo/Unit 6-A, 6/F T-Tower Condominium, Burgos St / FA 75 **Min Bid - P1,551,000**
PASIG
36 Condo/Unit 2802, AIC Gold Tower, Ortigas Ctr FA 187 02 *** **Min Bid - P6,900,000**
* CCT in bank's name, but lan and common areas with rec tale taxes unpaid by develop
Victoria Homes Muntinlupa
37 Lot/L18 B3-I, Circle-Jasmine St / LA 376 **Min Bid - P922,000**
38 Lot/L123 B3-A,Almond St / LA 403 **Min Bid - P988,000**
39 Lot/L125 B3-A,Almond St / LA 436 **Min Bid - P1,069,000**
40 Lot/L127 B3-A,Almond St / LA 459 **Min Bid - P1,125,000**
41 Lot/L3 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / LA 560 **Min Bid - P1,372,000**
42 Lot/L4 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / LA 560 **Min Bid - P1,372,000**
43 Lot/L5 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / LA – 560 **Min Bid - P1,372,000**
44 Lot/L6 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / LA 624 **Min Bid - P1,529,000**
45 Lot/L19 B3-I, Circle-Jasmine St / LA 713 **Min Bid - P1,747,000**
LAGUNA
46 H&L/L1 Molses Carmen Ave,Guevarra Subd, Brgy Sn Vicente Sn Pedro/LA 193/FA 54 **Min Bid - P874,000**
Bellbart ELSOL Villas Poblacion, Cabuyao
47 2 Sty Thse/ Unit 2 LA 54 / FA 55 **Min Bid - P768,000**
48 2 Sty Thse/ Unit 4 LA 54 / FA 55 **Min Bid - P769,000**
49 H&L w/ swimng pool Brgy. Pansol, Calamba LA 1,141 / FA 336 **Min Bid - P4,777,000**
Orchard Real Estate & Golf & Country Club Dasmarinas, Cavite
FAIRWAY LOTS
50 L17 Blk 10 / LA 1,034 **Min Bid - P3,930,000**
51 L49 Blk 50 / LA 582 **Min Bid - P2,212,000**
52 L50 Blk 50 / LA 627 **Min Bid - P2,383,000**
53 L51 Blk 50 / LA 732 **Min Bid - P2,782,000**
54 L52 Blk 50 / LA 540 **Min Bid - P2,052,000**
55 L53 Blk 50 / LA 1,027 **Min Bid - P3,903,000**
56 L54 Blk 50 / LA 638 **Min Bid - P2,425,000**
57 L32 Blk 30 / LA 638 **Min Bid - P2,413,000**
NON FAIRWAY LOTS
58 L12 Blk 38 / LA 653 **Min Bid - P1,959,000**
59 L67 Blk 48 / LA 506 **Min Bid - P1,518,000**
60 L53 Blk 17 / LA 811 **Min Bid - P2,433,000**
Peninsula De Punta Fuego Resort, Balaytigue Nasugbu, Batangas
Note: Subject to right of first refusal from ROXACO Land Corp. w/in 15 days
61 Lot/L16 Blk26 / LA 772 **Min Bid - P7,720,000**
62 Lot/L17 Blk 26/ LA 868 **Min Bid - P8,680,000**

RESIDENTIAL
VALENZUELA
63 Thse 2Sty/Unit 9 Sunriser Cmpd Chico St LA 31.20 / FA 51 **Min Bid - P369,000**
64 Res Bldg/ 193 Reyes St, Karuhatan LA 235 / FA 264 **Min Bid - P1,776,000**
65 Lot/L551-A-2-A-3 Pineda Cmpd Bonifacio St, Cmay East/ LA1,114 **Min Bid - P2,241,000**
66 2 Sty Bldg / L 23-A-4 N Urutia St, Palasan LA 670 / FA 694 **Min Bid - P2,345,000**
67 Lot 8-C-2-B, Santolan cor Tolentino Sts LA 353 / TFA 432 **Min Bid - P3,258,000**
Kabesang Imo cor Pili St Dealo Subd, Valenzuela
68 H&L1254-B1A/LA 40.49 **Min Bid - P313,000**
69 H&L1254-B1B/LA 36.43 **Min Bid - P282,000**
70 H&L1254-B1C/LA 51.72 **Min Bid - P400,000**
71 H&L1254-B1D/LA 43.44 **Min Bid - P280,000**
72 H&L1254-B1E/LA 43.44 **Min Bid - P280,000**
73 H&L1254-B1F/LA 43.35 **Min Bid - P279,000**
74 H&L1254-B1G/LA 43.13 **Min Bid - P278,000**
Sta. Maria, Bulacan Sunrays Village
Min Bid - P60,000 each
75 Lot/L22 B5 / LA 40
76 Lot/L25 B5 / LA 40
77 Lot/L26 B5 / LA 40
78 Lot/L27 B5 / LA 40
79 Lot/L28 B5 / LA 40
80 Lot/L29 B5 / LA 40
81 Lot/L30 B5 / LA 40
82 Lot/L31 B5 / LA 40
83 Lot/L32 B5 / LA 40
84 Lot/L12 B1 / LA 72 **Min Bid - P108,000**
85 Lot/L23 B1 / LA 74 **Min Bid - P111,000**
86 Lot/L24 B1 / LA 75 **Min Bid - P112,500**

COMMERCIAL
QUEZON CITY
87 Ofc/Whse-No 399 Del Monte Avenue, Brgy. Manresa, nr Banawe TLA 2,401 3 / FA 487 **Min Bid - P56,861,000**
88 3 Sty Bldg/ 500 Quirino Hi-way, Bo Bagbag Novaliches LA 180 / FA 488 **Min Bid - P7,483,000**
89 Whse/185 R'velt Ave SFDM / TLA 5,641 **Min Bid - P140,000,000**
MAKATI
90 Lot/Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Buendia Ave cor Marconi St / TLA 472 **Min Bid - P16,200,000**
91 Lot / 3904 Quingua St, Brgy Pinagkaisahan LA 612 **Min Bid - P13,770,000**
92 Condo/ 5/F Millenium Plaza, Eduque St Pinagkaisahan/FA 261. **Min Bid - P13,062,000**
MANILA
93 5 sty Bldg/ 1933 Rizal Ave (Nr Tayuman) LA 294 / FA 1,350 **Min Bid - P26,332,000**
94 3 sty Bldg/ 1933 Rizal Ave (Nr Tayuman) LA 381 / FA 810 **Min Bid - P18,299,000**
95 Dorm-3 Sty/ # 352 M.F. Jhocson St, Sampaloc LA 489.3 /TFA 1,620.5 **Min Bid - P16,600,000**
TAGUIG
96 Lot w/ 2-sty ofc bldg 4580-C, Int Maestrang Penang Ligid Tipas LA 326 / FA 512 **Min Bid - P2,769,000**
NUEVA ECIJA
97 Agri Lot/Bo Sto Tomas, Jaen / LA 20,000 **Min Bid - P3,240,000**

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REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Property Location and Description	Area (sq.m.)	Price
Pasig City: Unit 31, 3rd and 4th Floor of Crescent Condominium, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Commercial Compound, Pasig City 4 Bedroom; 4T & B's; Maid's Room; Sauna Room	367.50	Php 9,839,812.50
Mandaluyong City: Along Jose Rizal Street, Barangay Namayan, Mandaluyong City Land and Factory building; rear portion of the property is Pasig River	4,287.00	Php 60,917,220.00
Parañaque City: Vacant Lot located at Thomas St., Multinational Village, Parañaque	800.00	Php 4,320,000.00
2-storey Elegant house located at Thomas St. cor. John St., Multinational Village; 4 bedrooms each w/ T&B; worship room; office room; family room; living room; formal dining room; small dining room; kitchen; maid quarter; 8-10 parking capacity	Lot: 1,175.00 House: 815.00	Php 16,256,250.00

FOR PARTICULARS, PLEASE CALL AT 811-5807 up to 14/FAX:811-5815
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COMMERCIAL | **COMMERCIAL** | **LOT** | **CONDO/TWNHSE**

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COMMERCIAL/RESDL | **CONDO/TWNHSE**

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SUNRISE
San Mateo, Rizal
50m² up
nr Quezon City
2BR 1TB w/carport
P1,175 T - up
HOMES
M.L. Quezon Ext.
Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house
P1,150 T - up
PLACE
Brookside Hills,
Cainta, Rizal
Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse
2BR, 2TB with carport
P1.5M - up
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HOUSE & LOT

CAVITE

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1T&B LA110m² FA80m² P1.85M
Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAGUNA

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m²
P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES
2Sty FA210m² LA78m² P2M
Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

Binan 3T/mo 0390299

VARIED AREAS

Rushl West Kamias 400m²;
Villa Verde Hme Nova 240m²
Condo 49m² @ P2.3M Call
9220868 09189248321 Tess

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M BEL-AIR CONDO
10%DP 8T/MO. 09202941734

BelAir Soho P10K/mo 5yrs
2pay 0918-9339877 / 9616255

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR
15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

Spanish & Resort Type C-5
Nr D Fort & Ortigas 15min
Fr Makati 12.7T/mos. 0920-2522787 0919-4356812

MANILA

KASSEL Condo Studio Unit
31sqm fully furn near La Salle
St Scho Alma 5501352 Lito
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NR LA SALLE TAFT
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P3.415M 8903461 loc 34

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Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.8M
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F'VIEW P381T nr SM/Big-R
P3200/mo Pagibig 413-3313

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5Yrs 2 Pay 0917-5218338

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Thse nr UP 1.8M 9125847

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo 240m² @ P1,800 neg:
0917-8485621 / 984-7032

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m²
P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

MARIKINA

MARIKINA PARANG 100m²
up30%DP nr Chrch 413-3313

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m²
fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigie
8903461 loc 25/27

PARANAQUE

-BF HOMES PQUE 204 SQM F. GUERERRO ST
-BF RESORT LAS PINAS 375SQM CONSTANTINE ST
-SALITRAN DASMARINAS CAVITE 600 SQM FRNT OF GROVE SUBDIVISION
-VIGAN NR UNP 8910SQM CALL 0917-8322352 776-9008

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m²
P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS LOTS P28-36T/m²
300; 384; 650m² 5337601-03

CAPITOL EST-2 150m² ea.
P7300/sqm 0917-8339395

CORINTHIAN 600M² 4121825

LOT 4 SALE
GRENVILLE, NOVA QC 270m²
@ P3,800T/NET T-9201667

VILLA ESPANA LA108 50m²
P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RIZAL

FILINVEST 5 CAINTA
232m² P1.4M Annie 9403062

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M²
P4.250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613m²
P2 284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Tagaytay Overlooking
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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

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St. Ignatius VIII,cor lot 400m² 6br4tb 14M 09192221766

White Plains P25M
LA579sqm Main Road 5BR 911-4329 • 0917-7914243

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

WHITE PLAINS 632m²
w/2storey house 5BR 4car grge big lawn for swimming pool. P19M negotiable. Pls call 9114705/4649 & look for Tita or Chris 0919-4014983

RIZAL

ANTIPOLO LA-1927m² FA-141 & 31m² 3br 2tb Brgy Dalig DBO Only T695-1900 P8M Neg

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

Cainta Duplex 1.5M 8979541

LA-346 FA-200 3BR 1.5M
Mabolo Dr. 0917-5218338

o. leaving Greenland S Maiao la200 2cg slum vnice 2.7M 2974540 / 09178485621

CAVITE

CAVITE P320T Diamond Village 2BR 1TB 413-3313

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FACTORY/WHSE | FACTORY/WHSE | FACTORY/WHSE

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LOT

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

BATANGAS

Farmlot in Matabungkay, Batangas, 3,000sqm near beach Call 8013612 P1.9M

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MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

South Pt. 180m² 4T 9122304

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PLARIDEL,BULACAN 1501m² P1M BENG 9314466 /9124573

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SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P250/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Bldgs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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Mango Farm 0919-2221766

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

Pasay Rd. cor Mkti Ave across new Greenbelt Mall LAO' CTR. 45sqm Coml Space Tel#:8718630/8171272

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANDALUYONG

Boni Av nr. Makati Strong H2O Min 1RM • 233-8432

QUEZON CITY

PROJ.4 ALG JP RIZAL OFC,BUSS, BANK, RES BLDG 2sty w/mezzanine 6BR 4T&B 5car garage 0919-5512186 Elisa 0917-6270191 Pit

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

BAGUIO

PENSION HOUSE LONG TERM LEASE accepts TRANSIENT SEMINARS 074 4422020

HOUSE

MAKATI

45B J.Luna, San Lorenzo Vill. Makati Across Ayala Com'l Malls Nice 3Bdrm, Den w/ Bath, Patio, Garden Tel. 817-8630 & 817-1272 (Gene / Pepper)

MANILA

4bdrm-Res or Ofc 2227 Taft Ave 5min walk to DLSU 5259615

MARIKINA

Rancho 3br 180sqm 3car grge Puri Call 638-5378

QUEZON CITY

CORINTHIAN/ACROPOLIS/VALLE 4-6 BR W/POOL 6337601-03

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HORSESHOE VILL T-HOUSE 3+1 ATTIC 2CG W/TEL 0917-9228660•0917-4044491

PROJECT2 09198195026

BAGUIO

2BR P1500/DY FF 9316443

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Bernd. 3B3T 0919-2064003

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43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF
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Gene/Gerard
8178630/8171272

Rockwell Studio
FF 51m² View Pool 721-2756

MANILA

PACO TWNHSE 3STRY 3T&B 1PRKING 5521784 /09189290841

MANDALUYONG

1BR PARAGON FF 9316443

★Pioneer West 2BR Condo FF 25T All-In Hi-Flr 412-1825

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QUEZON CITY

Studio Type Condo 54m²
Fully Furnished Near Ateneo
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LAGUNA

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

WEST of Ayala Studio
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w/ 100 PARKING SPACES
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7235808 / 8961414
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APARTMENT

MANILA

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Up & Down 2-BR Apartment near UST Mona 3721099

MANDALUYONG

Rm. 4 Ladies 0920-5004655

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Conc. Up & Dwn w/H2O garage T8264410 P15T, 6.5T & 4.5T

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PROJ.7 2BR 1TB P8,500 375-7001 / 372-2236

SAN JUAN

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BEDSPACE

Bacood Sta Mesa 7270600

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MAKATI

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UNDER INT'L JUDGES
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As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture
Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.
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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

- Male, below 40 years old
- with at least 5 years relevant experience
- with good oral and written communication skills, computer literate
- willing to relocate to Mactan

Successful applicants may expect competitive compensation and benefits package. E-mail resumés to:
windchange721@yahoo.com
dbetterdeal_9375@yahoo.com or
rlsefill9375@yahoo.com

FOR LEASE

OFFICE SPACE

(MAKATI)	CITIBANK TOWER – 1,208.38 m² / 277.90 m² LOCSIN BLDG. – 1,060 m² DACON BLDG. – 282.60 m² / 114.94 m² / 77.50 m²
(MANILA)	PANDACAN – LA: 2578.15 m² / BA: 1,368 m²
(PASIG)	GLOBE TELECOM PLAZA – 169.70 m²

RESIDENTIAL

(MANILA)	DACON OTIS (Thse) – FA: 172 m² / 3BR, 3T&B PANDACAN CONDO – 138.3 m² to 146.70 m²
(MAKATI)	ASIA TOWER (Condo) – 77.2 m² / 2BR, 1T&B PRINCE PLAZA II (Studio) – 37.20 m² MAGALLANES (H&L) – LA: 392 m² FA: 129m² 4BR & 2T&B
(PASAY)	MARBELLA I (Condo/Studio) – 53 m²
(P'QUE)	BELLA VILLA I (Condo) – 248.67 m² / 3BR, 3T&B, 2 Prkg. – 213.54 m² / 2BR, 3T&B, 2 Prkg
(CEBU)	BEVERLY GLEN – 136 m² / 3BR, 2T&B

VACANT LOT

(MANILA) MENDIOLA EXT. PACO – LA: 2,370.80 m²

CALL: KITTY / JOEL TEL. #810-5851 / 816-7177

MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.
NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/ corporate stockholders:

STOCKHOLDER	ADDRESS	SC. NO.
1. Rich Girl Undergarments	Attn.: Mr. Prem Chandiramani, 2664 Honduras St., Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City	B-1021
2. MB Finance Corporation	Dolmar Gold Tower, 107 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	B-873
3. Benchmark Holding Co., Inc.	Asian Imex Enterprises, Inc. Natividad I Bldg., 2308 Pasong Tamo Extension, Magallanes, Makati City	A-2354
4. Ceferina Floresca	002 N. Perez Street, Pansol Estate, Balara, Quezon City	A-2254

The auction sale will be held on 27 June 2003 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Dasmariñas Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice and demand to the members/ stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue accounts at anytime during office hours before the auction sale.

(Sgd.) ROGELIO U. MARASIGAN
Corporate Secretary

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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ACCOUNTING CLERK, female single & computer literate Apply at 437-D A.Juan St. San Juan, call 723-4623-25

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JOB FAIR 09167054572 ECHO

MGMT STAFF 09207324320 Liza

Mktg Person'l 09192535623 Glenda

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CLUB PROMOTER
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Secretary Factory Worker Driver 777 Kalarungan St. 2/F Mandaluyong 5311996/5354383

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that VRPMC Stock Cert. # 45-Perla Santos Ocampo & #165 of Carlomagno Santos Ocampo has been declared lost (PDI-May 25, June 1, & 8 2003)

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- Good communication skills
- Computer Literate
- With at least one year experience as QC/QA and with ISO 9000 background

Quality Control Clerk

- Male
- 22 to 27 years old
- Engineering Graduate (Mechanical, Civil or Industrial)
- Computer Literate
- With at least one year experience in the same field preferred but not required

Qualified applicants may apply personally or may send their comprehensive resumé with current 2x2 ID picture and Transcript of Records to:

HUMAN RESOURCES & RELATIONS DEPT. (HRRD)
240 Menlo Street, Pasay City 1300

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ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Male or female
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Computer literate

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- Male
- Graduate of any business related course
- Preferably experienced in cargo or document delivery industry
- Willing to be posted in Middle east

DRIVERS
- Male. College graduate
- Drives 4-wheel vehicles
- Preferably with cargo and provincial driving experience
- Willing to drive in Manila and Province.

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- Knowledge in web programming, Javascript, Perl, CGI, Php (Xbase SQL experience preferred), network operation, design & configuration and data comm.
- Willing to work long hours

Interested applicants must report between 9am to 9pm with picture and pertinent documents at 402 P Guevarra St., Brgy Sta. Lucia, San Juan, Metro Manila (near Home Cable) Email: info@pesocard.com
• Visit www.pesocard.com • Tel number: 727-1919

****OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION****

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Qualifications:
- Male less than 27 years old
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently
- A graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- Must have 1 year experience in engaging notebook computer manufacturing and construction management
- Must be well experience in solving notebook computer engineering problem
- Able to manage new notebook computer product development process

Requirements:
- Updated resumé with recent photo
- Diploma/Transcript of Records
- Birth Certificate
- Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:
MR. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief, Recruitment Division
SBMA-Labor Center
Rm. 138, Building 255, Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222

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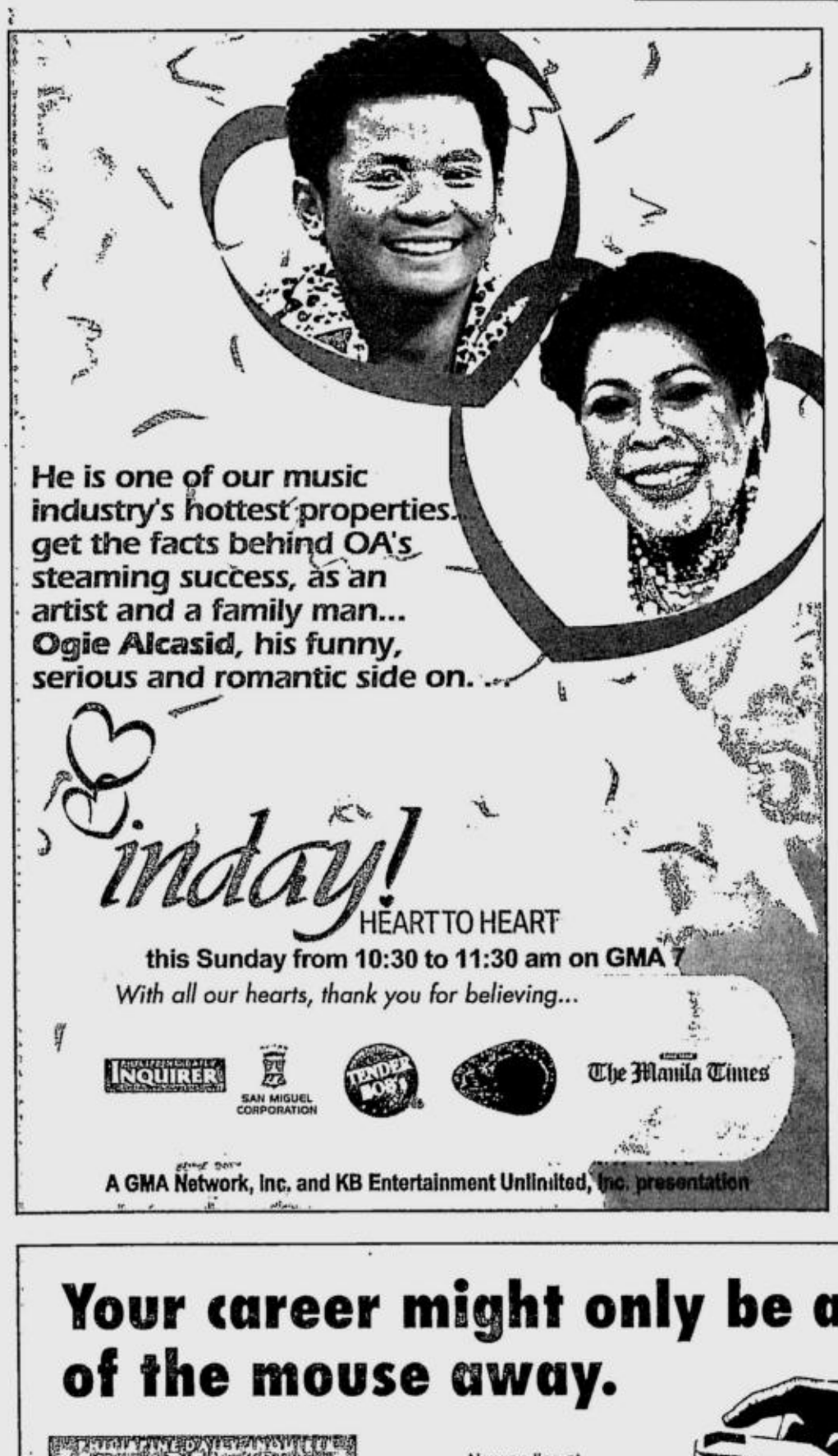
#2275 P.Burgos St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos.: 831-9668 / 831-0429 / 831-7549



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BIDDING)
ITB NO.: 05-16-2003

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all authorized **telecommunication operators** in its forth coming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project	Installation Internet Direct Service (IDS) Dedicated Leased Line
Approved Budget	Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 2,600,000.00)
Contract Period	One (1) year
Source of Fund	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Division (SRED), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from June 6, 2003 to June 25, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Unit (BSU), PPD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00)***. In order to secure the documents, interested bidders should primarily submit a **Letter of Intent** including the names of at least five (5) authorized representatives of the company that will handle the above-mentioned project to the BSU **not later than 5:00 p.m., June 24, 2003.**

Pre-Bid Conference	June 25, 2003 (2:00 p.m.)
Submission of Bids	July 10, 2003 (2:00 p.m.)
Opening of Bids	July 10, 2003 (2:00 p.m. onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contact if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 2

(PDI--June 8 & 15, 2003)

Victoria School Foundation, Q.C.

WE HAVE MOVED

Come and see us at

15 Valenzuela St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City, M.M.

Tel. No. 941-4446

NOTICE

Please take notice that the picture above is the latest picture of **PERLITA ALO** of Dumaguete City. Said person is facing several criminal cases in the various courts of Dumaguete City and having pending Arrest Warrants issued by the Municipal Trial Court in Cities of Dumaguete City. Her latest known address is Bangcal, San Roque, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro

Any information as to the present whereabouts of the above-named person will be rewarded accordingly. Please relay any information as to her present whereabouts to any of the following:

ANTONIO T. TERO
Pilipino Rural Bank Inc.
Pinili Street, Dumaguete City
Telephone no. 035-2256117

ATTY. RAYMUND J. A. MERCADO
Suite M-1, Doña Milagros Building
Pinili Street, Dumaguete City
Telephone nos.: 035-225-5079
035-422-7253

(PDI - June 8, 2003)

THIS IS TO WARN ALL POTENTIAL BUYERS OF SUV/ANY IMPORTED CARS FROM JAPAN

The undersigned does not have any transaction whatsoever in the importation of these vehicles. Hence, any importation documents, PNP clearance and Deed of Sale et al of any of these vehicles bearing the name **DIEGO A. OBNIAL** are all fraudulently obtained or falsified.

This notice manifest the good faith of the undersigned to warn buyers of imported cars in order not to be cheated or misled into buying these vehicles with fraudulent documentation.

Any information regarding imported vehicles bearing the name DIEGO A. OBNIAL in its Deed of Sale, PNP Clearance et al or as its source or importer, kindly notify **CASTRICIONES LAW OFFICE** at Unit 501 East Capitol Building, East Capitol Drive cor. Sta. Rosa St., Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City at 638-76-08

(Sgd.) DIEGO A. OBNIAL

Assisted by.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRICIONES
(PDI--June 8 2003)

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

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2002 MITS. EXCEED AEJ-349
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Gillette Management (S.E.A) P.T.E. LTD

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective June 9, 2003; ***Gillette Management (S.E.A) P.T.E. LTD*** will be moving from the 20th Floor, IL Tower I, to their new location at:

19th Floor, IL Tower I
Insular Life Corporate Center
Corporate Ave. cor. Commerce Ave.
Filinvest Corporate Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1770

New Telephone number 771-0701
Fax No. 711-0670

Gillette BRAUN Oral-B

ANNOUNCEMENT
INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an *"as-is-where-is"* basis and as one whole lot, the following properties of **Panay Railways, Inc. (PRI):**

DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE PRICE
a) Track Steel Rails in various locations in Panay Island; and	P32,109,364.00
b) One (1) unit unserviceable Diesel Hydraulic Locomotive located at the PRI La Paz Station yard, Iloilo City	

Sealed bids will be received on Wednesday, July 9, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. and immediatey thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P1,500.00.

In the event the bidding becomes a failure, offers may be received on a **"first-come, first-served"** basis.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

Privatization and Management Office
104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Fax (632) 818-0906/818-4591

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp02.BTRP.Le-0347, Schedule II**
   Title : **Construction and Installation of 230 & 69kV Substation Equipment and Various Facilities for MakBan Substation under Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project**
   Location : **Brgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna (Luzon)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230 & 69kV MakBan Substation under the Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project. The work also includes site development and construction of a control house and warehouse.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **Ninety Million Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Six Pesos (P90,385,966.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License : AAA 'Specialty: Electrical Works'
   Registration : Large 'B' - specialty: Electrical Works
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 30, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000)** per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of **June 30, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 5, 8 & 11, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following persons are hereby notified of their overdue payments on their installments for the purchase of the following real estate properties, namely:

NAME	PROPERTY	PAYMENT(S) DUE
Marlon Bravo/ Marlon Serrano	Neopolitan, PV B139 L4 TCT#36652	1,018,858.95
Sergio Montinola	Neopolitan, PVIII B215 L5 TCT#37492	2,273,143.06
Alberto dela Cruz	Neopolitan, PIV B246 L6 TCT#27357	2,341,948.69

The above-named-persons are hereby given a grace period of two (2) months from publication of this notice within which to pay the above-mentioned sums to DBH Development Corporation, 6th Floor, Renaissance Tower D, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Failure to pay the above amounts shall result in the cancellation of the Contracts to Sell by DBH Development Corporation.

(PDI–June 8, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #3 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 7438301; Fax No. 743-7236
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

30 May 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
IFB No. 2003-7-3 (14)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed bids from interested bidders to provide ***Janitorial Services*** to the DOH Central Office for the year 2003.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon payment of ***non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00)*** only from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26 from **June 9 to 27, 2003.**

A ***pre-bidding conference*** will be held on **June 20, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.,** MMD Conference Room, 2/F, Bldg. #25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the MMD Conference Room, 2/F, Bldg. #25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, not later than **9:30 a.m.** on **July 4, 2003.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, and bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

By authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 1 & 8, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #3 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 7438301; Fax No. 743-7236
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

02 June 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
IFB No. 2003-7-4-(15)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids from interested bidders to provide ***Security Services*** to the DOH Central Office for the year 2003.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of License to Operate/Business Permit and upon payment of a ***non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (PhP2,000.00) Pesos*** from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. #26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, telefax no. (632) 711-6831, Tel. No. 743-8301 loc. 3626 & 3627, from **June 9 to 27, 2003,** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on **June 20, 2003** at 1:00 p.m., **HHRDB Conference Room,** 3/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the **HHRDB Conference Room,** 3/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, not later than 1:00 p.m. on **July 4, 2003**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check and bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 8 & 15, 2003)

PHILIPPINE 2000
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. ECDP-ADB/03-DSWD-003

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project (Loan No. ADB-ADF 1607-PHI). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under this Contract.
   GRADE I INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
   1. **Children's Stories of Big Books**
   2. **Flipchart**
   3. **Children's Storybooks**
   4. **Jigsaw Puzzles**

   Bidder may submit offer for an individual item, combination of items or all items.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the Department of Education Grade I Instructional Materials to School Divisions in Regions VII & XII.
3. International Shopping procedure will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage Two Envelop System and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and purchase the complete bidding documents on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00),** to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines with tel. nos. (632) 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125, fax no. (632) 931-6146.
5. All sealed bids (complete with requirements) must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of total bid amount in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's check, cashier's or certified check from a reputable commercial bank valid for 120 days and must be delivered to the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City on 16 July 2003 at 2:00 p.m. **Late bids shall be rejected**. Thereafter, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, venue of which shall be announced in the pre-bid conference.
6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid Conference will be held on 2 July 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 5.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 16 July 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
9. The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids which may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd) RHODA F. YAP
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, DSWD-BAC

(PDI - June 8 & 15, 2003)

PHILIPPINE 2000
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. ECDP-WB/03-DSWD-004

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project (Loan No. 4301-PH). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under this Contract.
   GRADE I INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
   1. **Children's Stories of Big Books**
   2. **Flipchart**
   3. **Children's Storybooks**
   4. **Jigsaw Puzzles**

   Bidder may submit offer for an individual item, combination of items or all items
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the Department of Education Grade I Instructional Materials and Storybooks to School Divisions in Region VI.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as defined in the guidelines
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Department of Social Welfare and Development, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines with tel. nos. (632) 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125 fax no. (632) 951-7116
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting 16 June 2003, on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00/set.
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of total bid amount in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's check, cashier's or certified check from a reputable commercial bank valid for 120 days and must be delivered to the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City on 16 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on 2 July 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 7
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 16 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 7
10. The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids which may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd) RHODA F. YAP
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, DSWD-BAC

(PDI - June 8 & 15, 2003)

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In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

JEREMIAS "JERRY" UNGSON MONTEMAYOR

January 24, 1923 - June 9, 2002

The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) and the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, Inc. (FFFCI) join his wife **Nieves**; his children **Leonardo** (and **Nikki**), **Cecile** (and **Tom**), **Cristina** (and **Ernie**), **Raul**, **Rafael** (and **Pilette**), **Lorenzo** (†), **Marina**, **Tony** (and **Emi**), **Frances** (and **Raffy**), and **Moises**; his brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces in requesting all pious readers to remember him in their prayers and pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The FFF also takes this occasion to announce that the 50th Golden Anniversary of the FFF, which the late Jerry Montemayor found, will be commemorated on 25 October 2003 at the *Le Pavilion* along Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The FFF invites all members, associates, sympathizers and friends to relive its storied past and herald its future during this joyful day of reunion and celebration. For further details, please contact the FFF office by telephone at 647-1451 or 647-1093, by mail at 41 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge, Quezon City 1109, or by e-mail at freefarm@mozcom.com.

"You will forever be in our hearts"

ANTONIO AG. TORRES

For which your name means INESTIMABLE, BEYOND PRAISE.

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 06, 2003 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Perla**; children and in-law **Ramon, Rowena & Dider, Rudy & Jun-Jun,** grandchildren **Ruby Jean, Joyce Cloren, Cindy Grace** and **Alfred John**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc. Yakal Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

He will be cremated on June 11, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory.

VEDASTO RUIZ JOSE, PH.D.

February 06, 1930 – June 07, 2003
Former Chemistry Professor, UP
Former Commissioner, NIST

He is survived by wife ROSHAN; children ANTHONY & YASMIN and their families; and devoted assistant EDNA MIRABUENO.

His body lies in state at the Claret Mortuary, UP Village, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

EDUARDO PARAS PAKINGAN

"TATAY HADING"

A World War II Veteran

Has joined his wife ***Carmen*** *and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on June 03, 2003 at the age of 101.*

His loving children **SELA, ISING, EDENG, DELY, LINDA & BOY**;

His grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, relatives & friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His body lies in state at the family residence in 191 Mambog, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ROMANA RAMOS VDA. DE DELA CRUZ

Angadanan, Isabela, Phils. & San Diego, CA, U.S.A.
March 9, 1923 – June 7, 2003

A great mother to **Mina & Kutsky, Frederick** (†), **Linda & Jimmy, Fina & Joe, Rey Olimer** (†), **Gil Elmer** (†), **Letlet & Johnny, Rose & Jun, & Felix, Jr.** (†); a super lola to **Jing-Jing & Vic, Rachel & Gee, Crisanto, Sophie & Mike, Jamaica Blanca, Jen-Jen, Jonathan, John Peter, Johana Rose** and all her great grandchildren.

A lady of substance... She is our family's jewel. Her body lies in state at family residence in Angadanan, Isabela.

Interment to be announced.

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

Engr. Romeo Ferraren Mabunga, Sr.

Born June 04, 1931 has now peacefully joined the Creator on JUNE 7, 2003 at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. Tel. Nos. 645-1845/55.

Interment will be at Sto. Rosario Memorial Park - Taytay, Rizal on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

"I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

CORAZON "SAZON" ALMONTE MONTINO

Peacefully joined the Lord on June 6, 2003 at the age of 89.

Her loving children **Orlando** (+) & **Carmencita, Jose Jr.** & **Cecilia, Francia, Lourdes** & **Vic, Noe** & **Trinidad**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Gregory Subdivision, Panal, Tabaco City, Albay.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 14, 2003.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MGEN EMILIO BULAON DE LEON AFP (Ret)

(PMA Class 1965)

who passed away on May 27, 2003

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, gave donations, kept vigil, attended the necrological and funeral rites, and who, in countless ways, comforted us in our time of bereavement.

MARIA LUISA "ISAY" V. BAUTISTA

now peacefully rests in the grace of our Lord on June 06, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS, 1354 C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

Feliciano "Piring" G. Domingo, Sr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 6, 2003 at the age of 88.

His loving wife, **Gregoria**; children **Carlito, Pedro** (+), **Gloria** & **Hernani, Ely** (+) & **Ire**; grandchildren **Ali, Allan, Jack, Claudine, Chay, Niño**; relatives and friends request everyone to include him in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, White Plains, Q.C., Interment will be on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

CEASAR R. MONTESCLAROS, SR.

Died peacefully on June 6, 2003 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Cris**; children **Ed** and **Ditas, Tata** and **Wil, Atoy** and **Ella**; grandchildren **Louie, Chino, Inna, Anna, Caloy, Tin-Tin, Tan-Tan, Marian** and **Marinel**; brothers, sisters and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Acacia Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

COL. PERFECTO J. BARCELONA PAF-Ret.

1913-2003

Died June 6, 2003 at the age of 90 at Veterans Hospital, Quezon City

Survived by his wife **Dolores Santos Barcelona**; daughter **Josefina Manseguiao** and son **Dr. Edgardo S. Barcelona**, relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 8, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 3 p.m.

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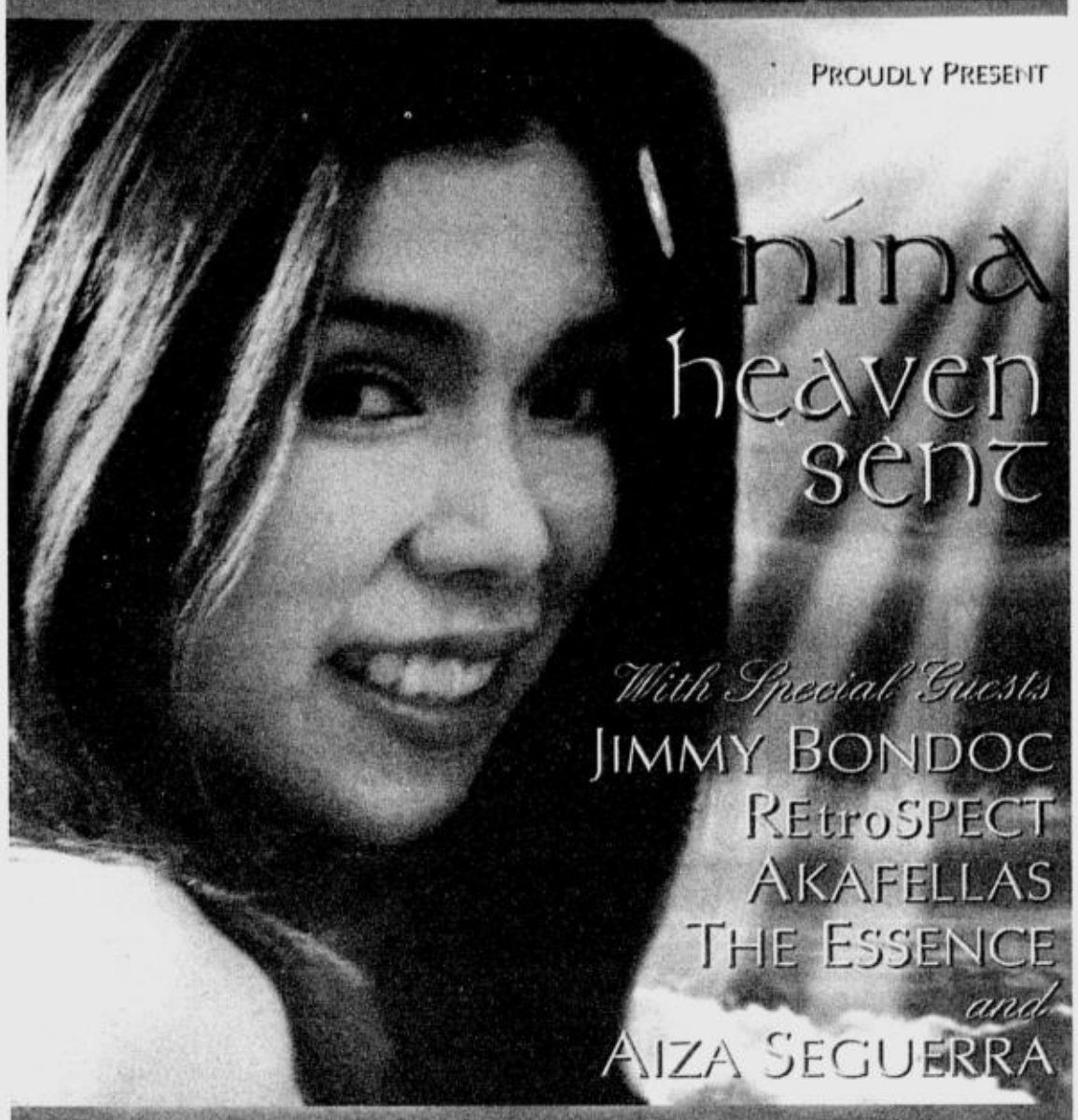

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Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NETRC 03-05-26

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing, Delivery and Retrieval of the 2003 Diagnostic Test Booklets and Examiner's Handbook. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P7,500,000.00 for the supply, delivery, retrieval and administrative cost.

All interested security printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting June 2 - 13, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 9, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on June 23, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–June 1 & 8, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the **PROCUREMENT of APPROXIMATELY 500,000 PIECES OF MAGNETIC TICKETS** with a total approved budget amounting to **THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY PESOS & 00/100 (P3,240,000.00)**.

Accreditation requirements can be obtained from the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT3 Depot Office, North Avenue Cor. EDSA, North Triangle, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:30 p.m., **23 June 2003**. Accredited/pre-qualified bidders/suppliers need not apply.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P1,000.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-Metrostar Express reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
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(PDI - June 8 & 16, 2003)

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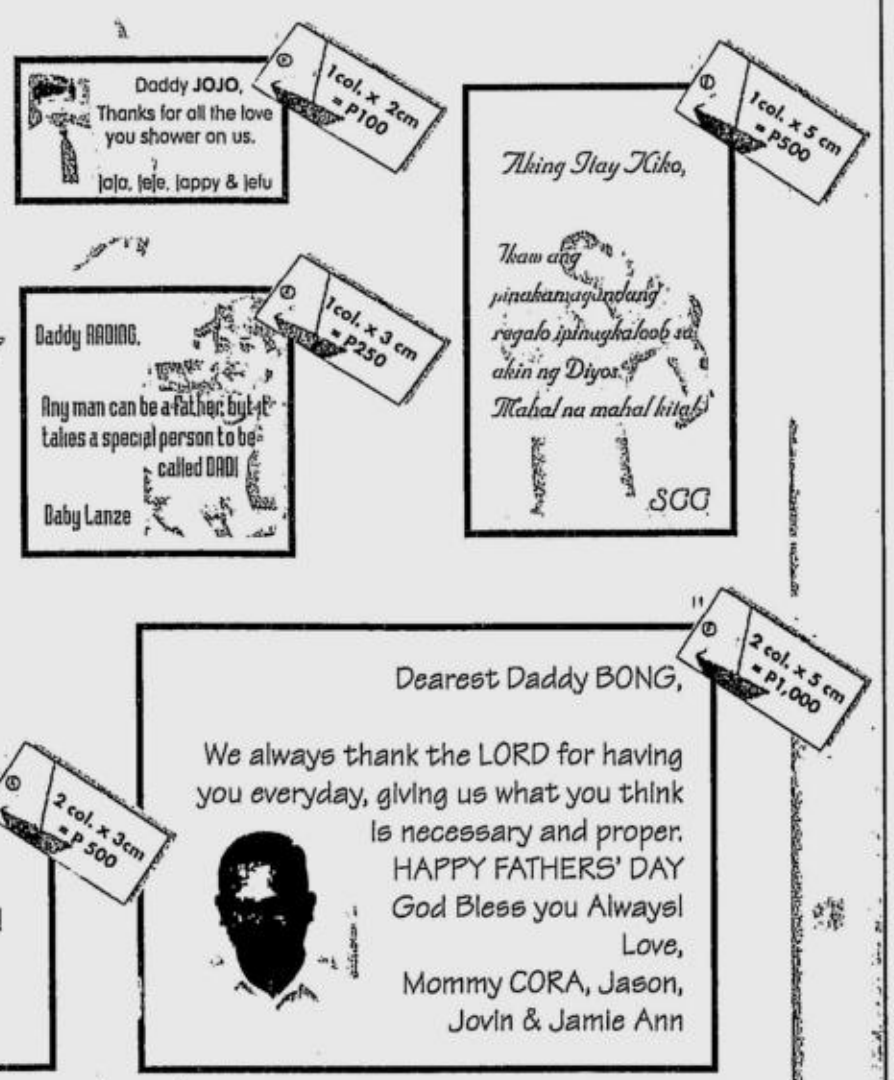

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SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

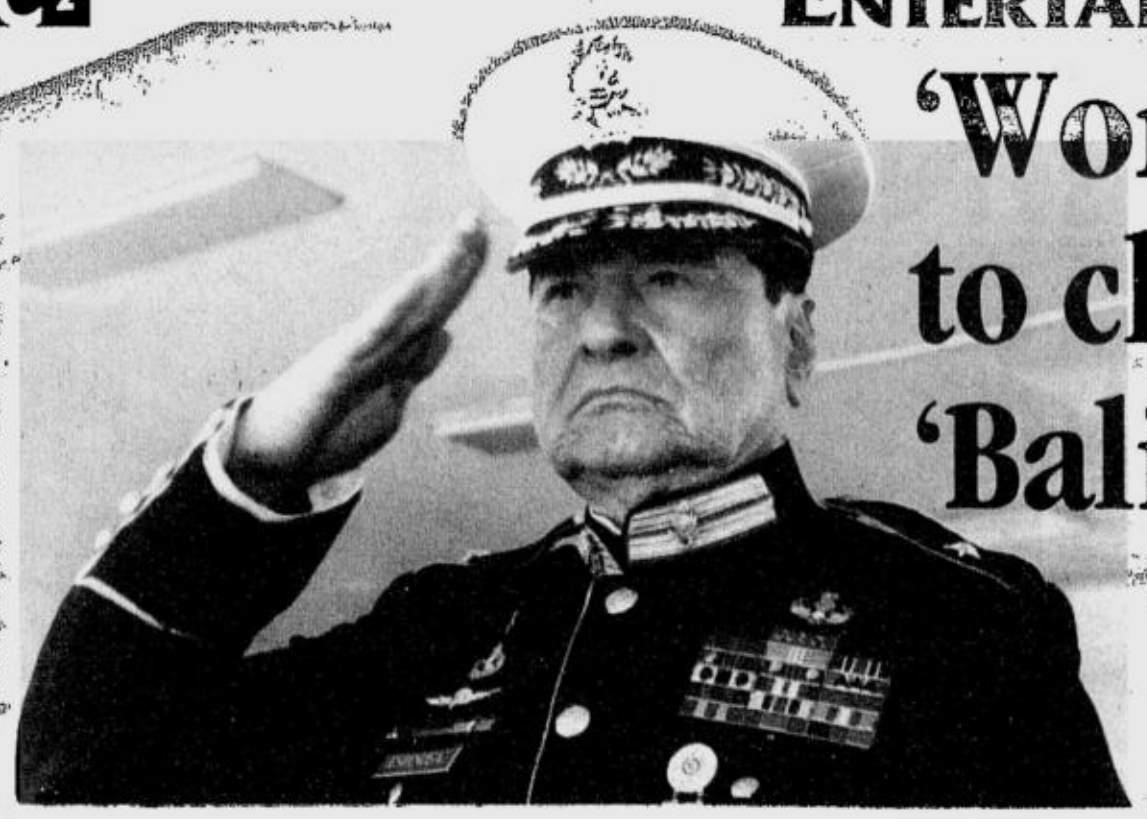
EVANGELISTA

'Worried' US officers to check out filmfest's 'Balikatan' movie /C2

Noela Mae does a Miriam /C3

'Animatrix' to the max /C5

'Worried' US officers to check out filmfest's 'Balikatan' movie



OFF TO WAR. Malonzo plays a Filipino captain, and Patricia Javier in the role of his wife.

COMBAT ZONE. Eddie Garcia (left and above) is another Filipino official.

By Leah Salterio

AMERICAN officials involved in the Balikatan RP-US joint military exercises have requested for a special screening of the action movie "Operation Balikatan" because they are worried it might present a negative view of the exercises.

The Americans, however, made it clear they did not intend to censor the movie, one of the six entries in the Manila Film Festival which starts on June 11.

"Although the movie is fictitious, the Americans are worried that it might give the public a negative notion of Balikatan," said an official in the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) in Malacañang. "The American soldiers are worried they might be depicted as meddling in the military affairs of the Philippines."

Navy Capt. Dennis Williams, in charge of Balikatan public affairs, coursed the request to Premiere Productions through the OPS on Thursday night.

"The American soldiers simply want to view the content of the movie and see if it complies with the terms of reference of the Balikatan," the OPS official pointed out.

"Operation Balikatan," produced and directed by Cirio Santiago, revolves around the lives of soldiers in the military exercises.

Rating concern

The OPS earlier wrote Premiere Productions requesting Santiago for a special preview of "Operation Balikatan" this weekend at the US Embassy, the Department of National Defense in Camp Aguinaldo or at the OPS in Malacañang. Last Friday, however, an OPS official said the American officials and members of the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission would watch the movie during its premiere showing on Tuesday.

The commission oversees the Balikatan exercises.

"The soldiers also want to know if the film conforms to the information operation of the media campaign of the Balikatan and if the rating given to the movie was in accordance with national security," the OPS officer said.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) gave the movie a PG-13 classification, restricting it to viewers 13 years old and above.

The Visiting Forces Agreement Commission also wanted to make sure the movie adhered to the Balikatan terms of reference, said the OPS officer.

Special effects

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster is the commander of the US contingent in the Balikatan. Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio is his Filipino counterpart.

Admiral Thomas Fargo, the commander of the US military forces in the Asia Pacific, was in Manila last week to meet with Philippine defense officials on the US bid to strengthen its role in the fight against terrorism. Fargo also laid the groundwork for Balikatan exercises in the provinces of Cebu, Zamboanga and Sulu.

Director Santiago described "Operation Balikatan" the movie as an action-packed vehicle replete with battle scenes, explosions and special effects. He compared his work to war movies like Antoine Fuqua's "Tears of the Sun" and Ridley Scott's "Black Hawk Down."

He said HBO/Cinemax has already bought the right to air the movie on cable TV later this year.

Rescue attempt

"It is a film that shows how the Balikatan exercises affect the lives not only of the soldiers but also of the community," he said. "It shows what goes on behind the news, how Filipinos and Americans, Christians and Muslims join hands in battling fanatic rebels."

Rey Malonzo plays a bemedalled Marine captain who, together with six other men, tries to free three Americans held hostage by terrorists.

The movie stars Eddie Garcia, Monsour del Rosario, Carlo Maceda and Archie Adamos, and American actors Christian Boeving, Nate Adams and Davee Youngblood. Patricia Javier plays Malonzo's wife.

Malonzo, who is also the mayor of Caloocan City, described the movie as "timely."

"It is also a call for awareness of the ongoing battle against terrorism," he said.

DID YOU KNOW...

Tessie Tomas was seen strolling alone at Greenbelt 3 cineplex in Makati City two Saturday nights ago, apparently waiting for someone to watch a movie with. The host of ABS-CBN's morning show lives in a nearby condo unit.

Pops concert postponed

DUE to another recent SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak declared by the World Health Organization, the June 7 concert of Pops Fernandez in Toronto was postponed to July 26.

But her June 14 concert in Vancouver will take place, with special guests Aiza Seguerra, Troy Montero and John Lapuz.

"We apologize for whatever inconvenience the postponement has caused but we will definitely be in Toronto in July," said Pops in a statement.

Pops is in New York to attend a wedding of a relative. When she comes back to Manila, she will start working on a new soap opera to be aired on GMA 7.

There are also plans for a new musical show on the same channel.

Pops' Pipay line of clothing is currently sold at Anonymous. Pops is also the endorser of the Edsa Shangri-La Mall and Confident Sanitary Napkin.

'Dekada '70' at Heritage Park

TO MARK the country's Independence Day, The Heritage Park will screen the acclaimed movie "Dekada '70" on June 12, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the park's grounds. The award-winning movie by Chito Roño stars Christopher de Leon, Vilma Santos, Marvin Agustin, Danilo Barrios, Carlos Agassi, John Wayne Sace, Dimples Romana and Piolo Pascual.

Admission is free.

"This film showing will highlight the park's contribution to the observance of Independence Day," said The Heritage Park operations vice president Emir Tubayan. "Dekada '70" is timely and definitely worth watching with family and friends."

Some members of the cast are expected to be present during the showing. A spectacular fireworks display will cap the festivities.

SHOW TIME

"Dekada '70" is the Carlos Palanca award-winning novel of Lualhati Bautista. It tells the story of a family caught in the midst of changes during a turbulent part of the country's history. Middle-class husband and wife Julian (De Leon) and Amanda Bartolome (Santos) and their five sons begin to struggle as they face the new realities and changes that unravel while the decade unfolds. Eventually, the family's conservative values and ideologies are threatened, their strength and bonding tested.

Located in Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park features first-rate amenities spread out over 76 hectares of manicured greens.

For details, please call 845-2341, 845-2342, 8452334 to 38, local 109 or 112, or e-mail sales@heritagepark.com.ph.

'Back to Eskwela' at Ipanema

PRAIA de Ipanema Bar in Eastwood City Walk this month brings together Manila's top acoustic artists in a month-long back-to-school gig titled "Back to Eskwela Ipanema."

Nutty professor Jimmy Bondoc, one of the country's most promising recording stars, starts the week with his anatomy classes on Monday nights. Essence Band featuring boy wonder Francis Soriano entrances ladies on his Tuesday chemistry nights.

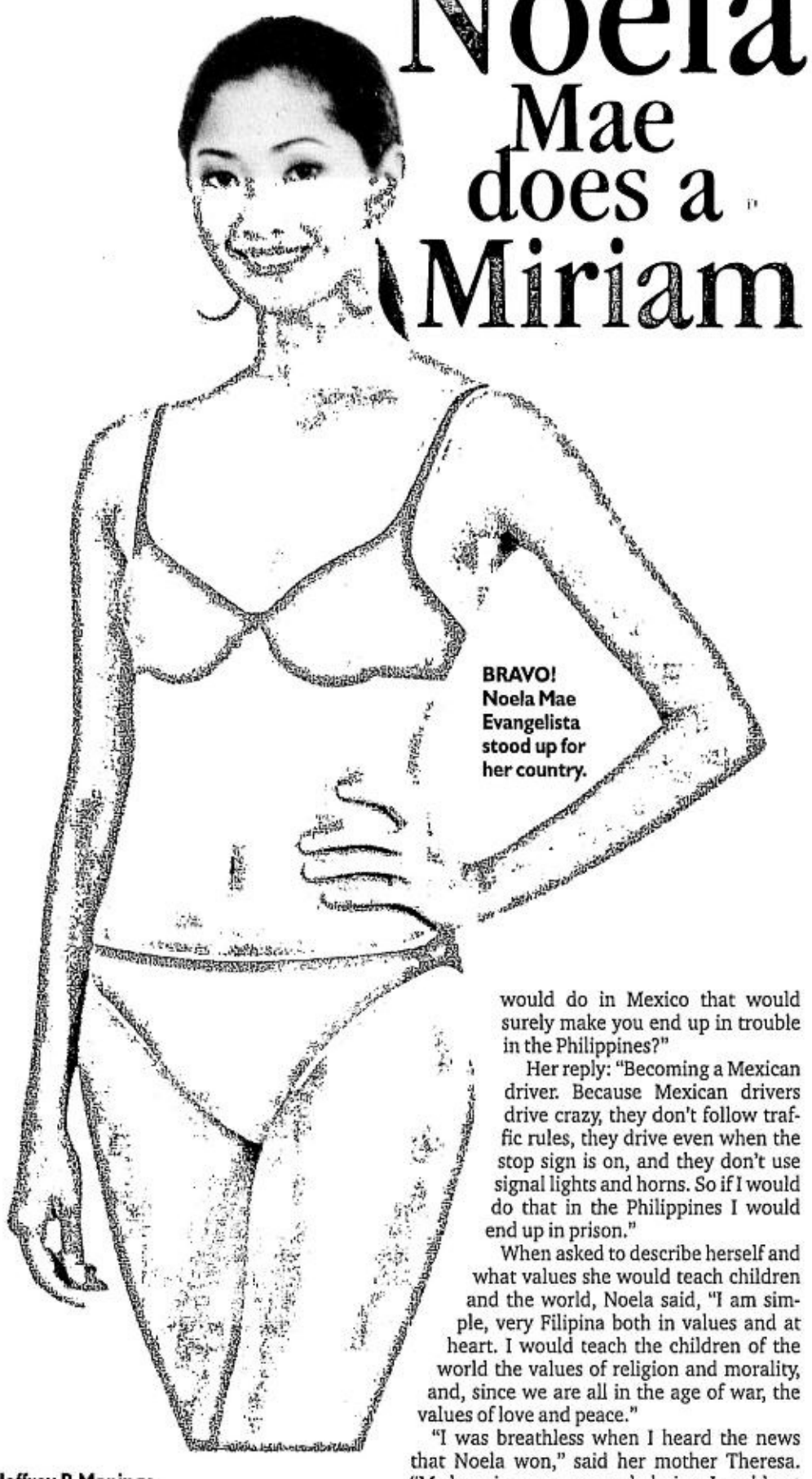
Sensational trio MYMP (Make Your Momma Proud) talks about social studies and music on Wednesdays, while P.E. coaches Dominic and Burton sizzle with their vocal calisthenics on June 12.

"Mr. Acoustic" Paolo Santos takes center stage on June 19 and 26 as he makes a grand return to Ipanema, where he performed in 2001.

Named after a scenic resort district in Rio de Janeiro, Praia de Ipanema is the leading Brazilian-inspired watering hole in the metropolis.

Ipanema Bar is operated by Cinco Grande Corp. headed by Lynn Fadrilan. For inquiries, call 421-7764 to 65 or text 0920-9051532.

Noela Mae does a Miriam



Jeffrey P. Maningo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—When she was asked, during the final question-and-answer portion of the Miss Queen of Tourism International beauty pageant in Cancun, Mexico last May 15, to describe the Philippines in 20 seconds, Noela Mae Evangelista, 21, answered: "The Philippines is composed of 7,107 tropical islands with its multi-cultural people living side by side. And I think I have very well represented my country tonight when I fell on the floor and stood up. I have stood up not only for myself but also for my country."

Earlier in the show, the brown-skinned, 5-foot-8 Iligan lass had tripped during the opening number, which included 48 contestants from around the globe. The accident recalled Miriam Quiambao's own spectacular fall and rise in the 1999 Miss Universe show in the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Despite the mishap, Miriam emerged first runner-up.

"Two hours before the show, pageant organizers had waxed the floor," Noela told the INQUIRER shortly after her arrival in this southern Philippine city. "I was wearing a four-kilo headdress and my national costume had a lot of feathers so it was really hard to move."

Holding her breath

Heavy costume and slippery floor and all, Noela became the first Filipina to be crowned Miss Tourism International.

Noela admitted she felt very discouraged after her fall. Still, she won the awards Best in Long Gown, which also earned her the Miss Elegance title, plus Best in Oriental Costume, and Miss Queen of Tourism Asia. And then she was among the final five, and she was asked the final question about her country.

After she gave her answer, the crowd erupted with cheers of "Bravo, Filipinas!"

She said she held her breath as Australia's Melyssa Piva was named second runner-up, and then Colombia's Liviana Rosemary was announced as first runner-up. Noela was it.

The judges were pageant experts from 12 countries including the United States, Spain and Australia.

Teaching values

Noela apparently also earned high points for answering two other questions with both wit and character.

"What would be the one thing that you would do in Mexico that would surely make you end up in trouble in the Philippines?"

Her reply: "Becoming a Mexican driver. Because Mexican drivers drive crazy, they don't follow traffic rules, they drive even when the stop sign is on, and they don't use signal lights and horns. So if I would do that in the Philippines I would end up in prison."

When asked to describe herself and what values she would teach children and the world, Noela said, "I am simple, very Filipina both in values and at heart. I would teach the children of the world the values of religion and morality, and, since we are all in the age of war, the values of love and peace."

"I was breathless when I heard the news that Noela won," said her mother Theresa. "My happiness was overwhelming. I could not explain how I felt."

Noela's father, Noel, said he did not expect her second daughter would make it. "When she was younger, she was a skinny girl with braided hair," he told reporters in Iligan. "She was even considered an ugly duckling."

Getting job offers

Noela started joining beauty contests at the age of 17. She later became Miss Iligan.

She went into modeling and joined other local and national beauty contests, the most recent of which was the 2003 Bb. Pilipinas, where she was first runner-up. She also won in the MTV Fashionista search held in Turkey last year.

But Noela still considers herself a newcomer as far as international exposure is concerned. "So winning the Tourism International title was really exhilarating because all the other candidates were veterans in the international arena," she said.

She said winning the international beauty crown has helped her talk and handle herself better.

After her Cancun victory, Noela has received various offers abroad, including a modeling job in Milan, Italy.

Bb. Pilipinas organizers said Noela's duty now is to present the Philippines as tourist-friendly, despite the realities of war and terrorism, especially in Mindanao, where she grew up (in Lanao del Norte).

Selling Mindanao

She admitted that promoting the country to foreigners would be "quite a heavy responsibility for a 21-year-old like me."

"We have always boasted of our beautiful beaches," she said. "I would like to promote the beauty of our culture–how caring, loving and hospitable we are, and how much we love and value our freedom, having toppled dictators and all that."

But the bigger challenge is "selling" Mindanao to foreigners, for the region where she comes from is indeed viewed as unsafe because of the ongoing Moro insurgency.

"The war is very isolated here in Mindanao and not all parts of the region is affected by it," she said. "This war has not affected the beauty of our culture too much. Even worse (things) happen to other countries. So I am happy to say that the war in the Philippines is the last thing that tourists should think about."

DID YOU KNOW...

Talent manager **Jessica Rodriguez**, who is now eight months on the family way, has been confined at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center in Greenhills, San Juan on and off during her pregnancy because of her delicate condition. There was a time she was in the hospital for two straight months. Last Sunday, she was given permission by her gynecologist to attend her baby shower at the Manila Galleria Suites. Jessica is set to give birth to her baby with athlete **David Bunevacz** next month.

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Arnie might run for governor

LOS ANGELES—Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, long mentioned as a potential Republican candidate for governor, told Esquire magazine for its July issue: "Yes, I would love to be governor of California. ... If the state needs me, and if there's no one I think is better, then I will run."

With Democratic Gov. Gray Davis facing a recall campaign that could result in a special gubernatorial election as early as fall, Schwarzenegger's political ambitions could be expedited.

Schwarzenegger, 55, is on the cover of the magazine that hits newsstands June 13. A cover line reads: "The Next Governor of California. Really."

But Schwarzenegger's political adviser, George Gorton, said: "The bottomline is he hasn't decided whether he's going to run or not." *AP*

Lecter, Finch top lists

LOS ANGELES—Hannibal Lecter, a psychotic killer with a penchant for eating his victims, and idealistic lawyer Atticus Finch top the lists of the greatest movie villains and heroes of all time.

The evil psychiatrist-turned-serial-killer and the driven attorney dominated the American Film Institute's rankings of the 50 greatest film villains and role models that was unveiled here Wednesday.

"Hannibal the Cannibal" Lecter was portrayed by actor Anthony Hopkins in 1991's "Silence of the Lamb" and its sequels while Gregory Peck played the right-minded southern lawyer in 1962's "To Kill A Mockingbird." Both stars won Oscars for the portrayal of their characters from opposite sides of the moral spectrum. In "Mockingbird" Finch defends a black man unjustly accused of rape.

Second on the list of heroes was Indiana Jones, the main character of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," played by Harrison Ford, followed by British superagent James Bond in 1962's "Dr. No" and Rick Blaine in Casablanca (1942).

The line-up of the most evil celluloid baddies included deranged Norman Bates of "Psycho" fame in second place, followed by Darth Vader in the "Star Wars" sci-fi sequel "The Empire Strikes Back."

The fourth worst offender was the Wicked Witch of the West from 1938's "The Wizard of Oz" followed by the terrifying Nurse Ratched from 1975's mental hospital thriller "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest."

The AFI list was compiled after some 1,500 actors, directors, critics and film historians voted on the best goodies and baddies from among 400 candidates.

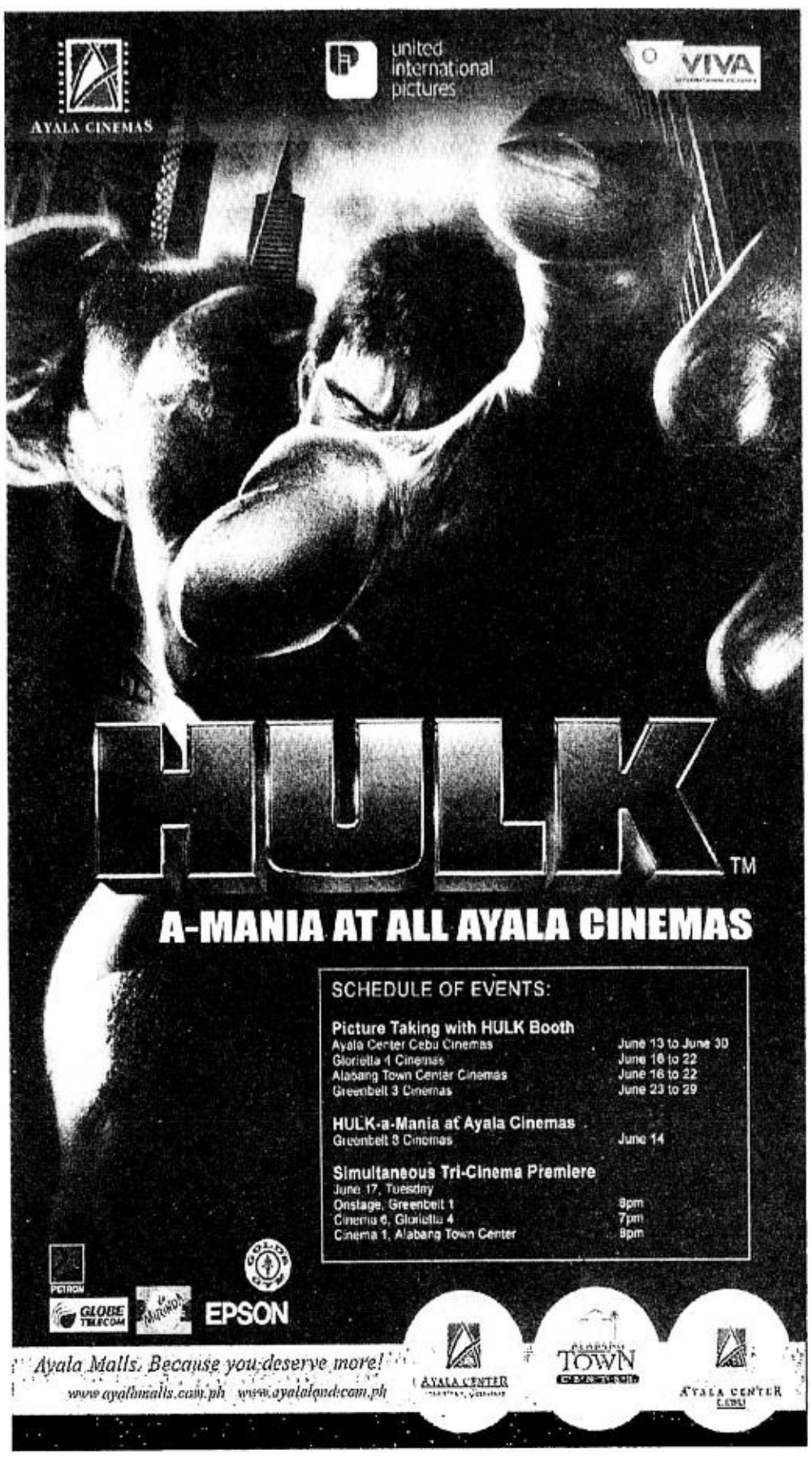
The odd-man out in the hero rankings was a dog–Lassie, who came in 39th on the list for his role in "Lassie Come Home." *AFP*

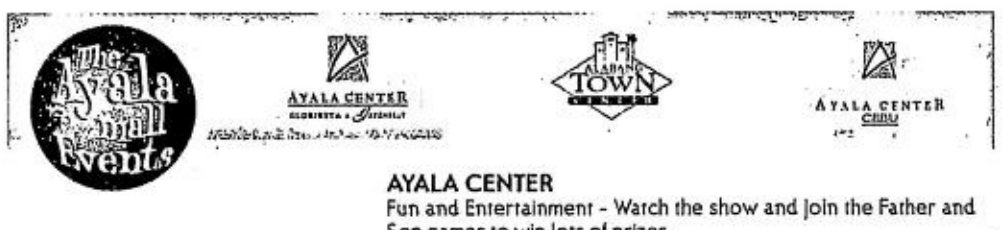
Demi, 40, and Ashton, 25

LOS ANGELES—Divorced Hollywood star Demi Moore, who is poised to make a major movie comeback, has a new love who is 15 years her junior, said a report seen here Thursday.

Bruce Willis' 40-year-old ex-wife, the star of the upcoming "Charlie's Angels" sequel, has been spotted frolicking with teen idol Ashton Kutcher, 25, People magazine said.

"They flirted with each other all night," the celebrity magazine quoted an observer as saying. "It looked like they were in that giddy phase, when you start to fall for someone." *AFP*



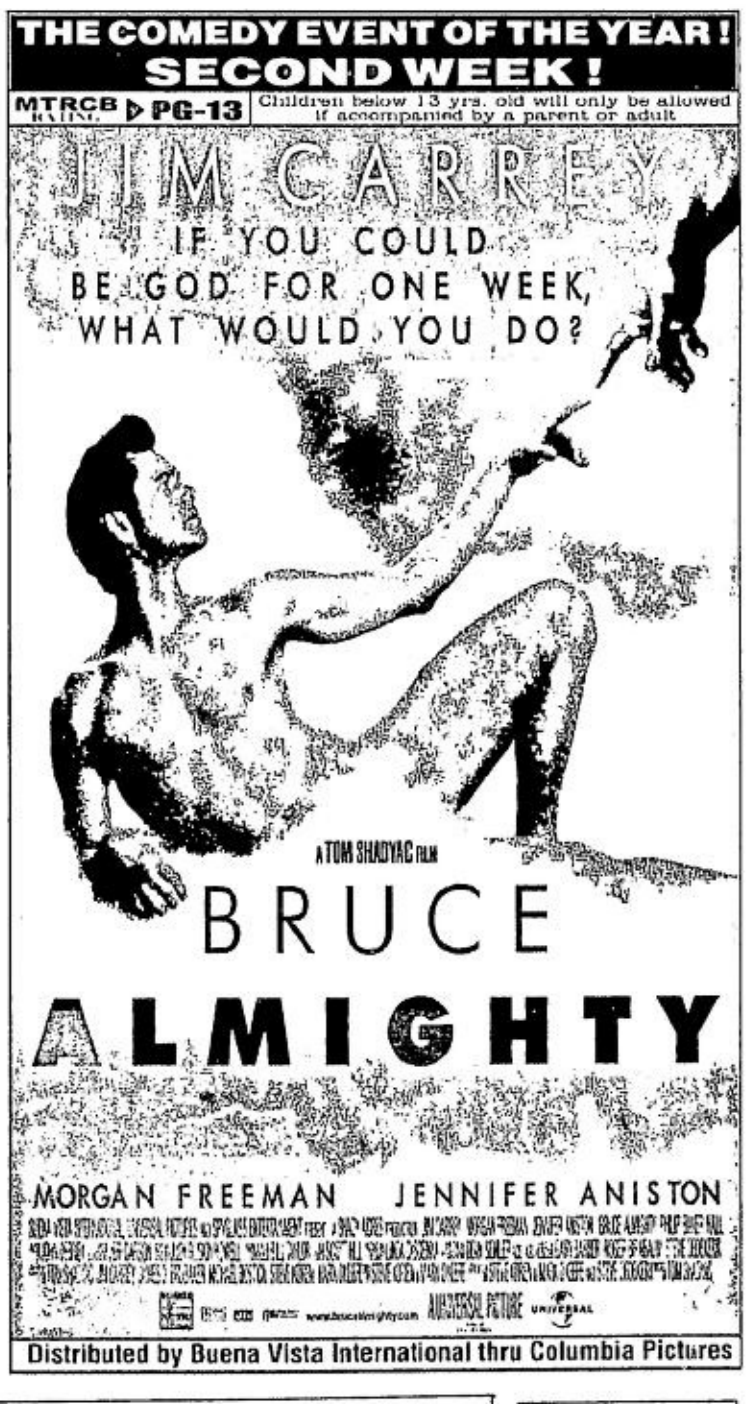


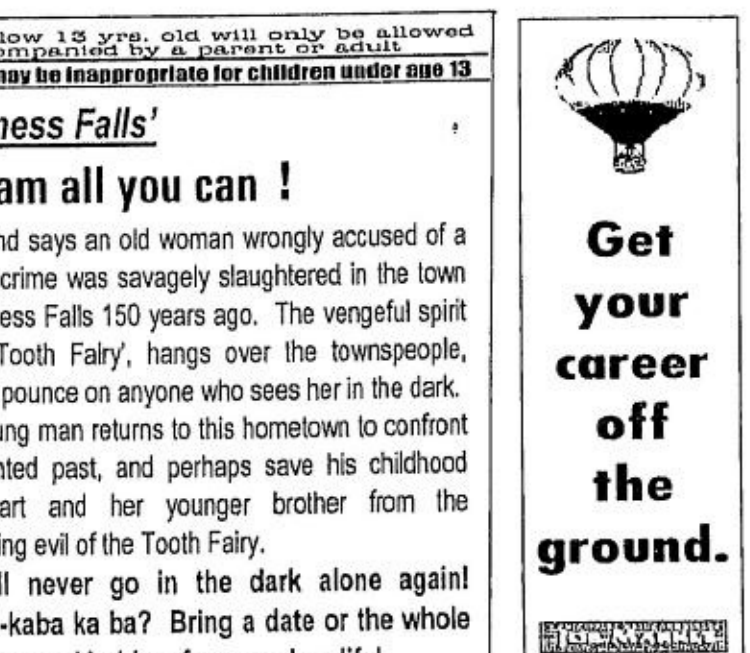
Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	DARKNESS FALLS
Ali 5	REAL CANCUN
Ali 6	BIGAY HILIG
Ali 7	MATRIX RELOADED
ARANETA COLISEUM	
June 9 & 11	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
June 14	MARTIN/REGINE CONCERT
June 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP
June 22	PBA GAMES
June 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
July 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FUN RIDES	
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP	
START 4 PM DAILY	

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REAL CANCUN
CINEMA-12	VERDICT
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA





'FINAL Flight of the Osiris'

'Animatrix' to the max

By Ruel S. de Vera

This DVD-only set of animated shorts allows viewers to plunge audiences even deeper into the 'Matrix' than the movies do

JUST like that moment when Neo (Keanu Reeves) comes face to face with the enigmatic Architect (Helmut Bakaitis) in "The Matrix Reloaded," there is a tangible—if such a word could be applied to the illusory setting of the Matrix—sense of coming full circle with Warner Home Video's exclusive "The Animatrix."

Just as Matrix trilogy creators Larry and Andy Wachowski acknowledge that the original movie's wire-work fight scenes were heavily influenced by classic animé, so now the Wachowskis have asked some of Japan's best animé masters to dive into the Matrix with them.

Released shortly after the worldwide opening of "The Matrix Reloaded," "The Animatrix" is the result of two-years' work from animators of both Eastern and Western influences. This cutting-edge collection of nine diverse animated shorts displays each respective creator's strengths as well as expands different dimensions of the Matrix. In Japanese manga and animé parlance, these nine shorts amount to being "side stories" to the Matrix trilogy, or so it seems.

Most viewers are aware of "The Animatrix" from its showcase piece, "Final Flight of the Osiris," which was screened with the Stephen King thriller "Dreamcatcher." Helmed by "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" animation boss Andy Jones, "Osiris" is easily the most accessible among the nine shorts. A very telegenic, straightforward action piece involving a beleaguered Zion ship called the Osiris, "Osiris" features an even sleeker animation style than what Jones employed for the visually stimulating but ultimately flawed "Final Fantasy" movie.

This is also the most obviously Western-influenced among the shorts and the one that ties in directly with the Matrix trilogy, having set the stage for the events of "Reloaded."

Psychedelic scenes

But it is the eight other shorts that really unleash the considerable creative muscle of "The Animatrix." By far the oddest piece is "Matriculated," a serious head trip from "Aeon Flux" creator Peter Chung.

Just like MTV's "Flux," "Matriculated," with its psychedelic scenes and reverse-engineered philosophy (of how machines see themselves within a man-manipulated Matrix), maintains the same vibe as the baffling but inexplicably appealing "Flux" series. It's an acquired taste to be sure, but is clearly brave and distinctive, if a tad puzzling.

Almost expressionist in its incarnation, "World Record" is a kinetic film that combines the seemingly disparate worlds of the Matrix and sports. Told through the story of a world-class American sprinter whose gifts enable him to glimpse, albeit briefly, the boundaries of the Matrix, it is a powerful, almost purely visual experience as seen through the eyes of Yoshiaka Kawajiri, maker of the irresistibly bloody "Ninja Scroll" and brooding "Vampire Hunter D."

Slice of life

The most Eastern-influenced piece is also from Kawajiri. With a few nods to his masterpiece, "Ninja Scroll," "Program" is, from the onset, almost purely animé. In no uncertain terms, "Program" is also the single most gorgeous by classic animé standards, with its flat perspective stretching to accommodate the blade-swirling action between two Samurai warriors. But once Kawajiri reveals how the entire sequence actually ties in to the Matrix, "Program" assumes its proper, enjoyable if slightly gimmicky, place in the Matrix universe.

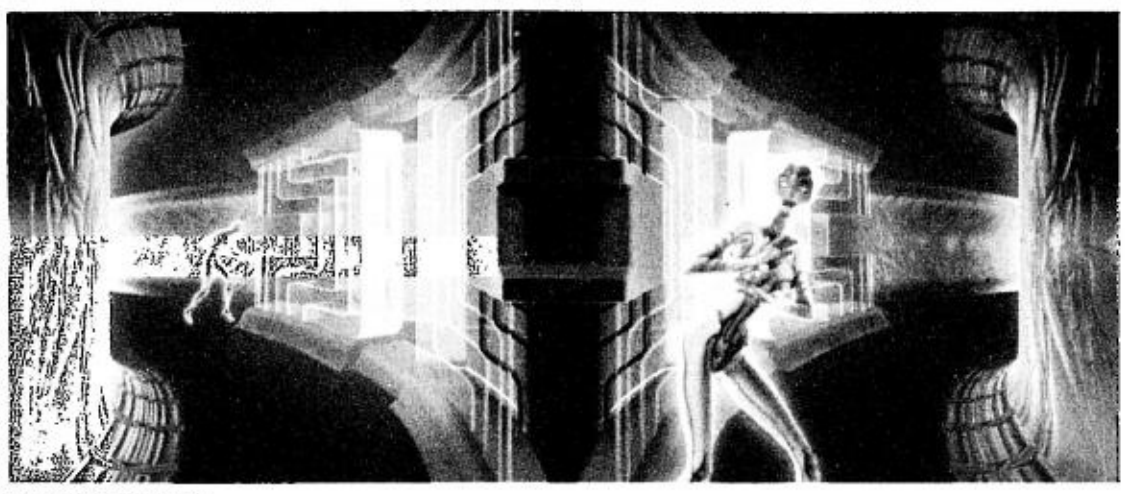
Cameo appearance

The last of the shorts, "Beyond" is an interesting slice of life from a seemingly innocuous neighborhood in the virtual world. Remember when the Oracle (the late Gloria Foster) told Neo that anytime something supernatural occurs in the Matrix, it's either a glitch or the Matrix fixing that glitch? Well, "Beyond," directed by Koji Morimoto (who had worked on the animé epic "Akira"), tells us just how a haunted house fits into this unreal setting. A bit overly long but sufficiently diverting, "Beyond" shimmers with a child-like sense of whimsy that suddenly, violently evaporates when the Agents come calling.

Possessing a slightly older sense of whimsy is "Kid's Story," told in an almost realistic depiction by Shinichiro Watanabe, the guy behind that wiseacre, noirish "Cowboy Bebop" series. A stirring tale of how one can break free from the Matrix on their own, "Kid's Story" also ties into "Reloaded" as its fleshed-out protagonist (Clayton Watson) bugs Neo and company in the movie. Neo makes a cameo appearance, by the way.

Overflowing with messages about teenage empowerment, "Kid's Story" is inspiring fun, if a bit unusual for Watanabe.

What is not unusual from Watanabe is the visually distinctive "Detective Story." Employing more cues from "Bebop," this short follows a hardboiled detective named Ash in a '40s-style offering that is actually told in black and white as he tracks down the elusive Trinity. It's all dark corners, trains and cigarette smoke as the private eye finds out, with a little help from a catsuit-clad, gun-toting rebel, that all is not what it seems with this particular job. Great noir fun.



'MATRICULATED'

Beautiful, violent

But all the others—yes, even "Program" and "Osiris"—tend to shrink next to the scope and impact of "The Second Renaissance," told in two parts. Written by the Wachowskis and directed by "Blue Submarine No. 6" director Mahiro Maeda, "Renaissance" actually reveals the long and violent origin of the Matrix itself in an ingeniously effective faux-documentary style. This widescreen history is deeply disturbing and revelatory, perhaps even changing the way you look at the entire Matrix experience.

Recalling the lasting ramifications of the Holocaust, "Renaissance" actually details two separate holocausts and feels like an animé "Apocalypse Now." As beautiful as it is violent, as illuminating as it is thought provoking, "Renaissance" is clearly the best and more important of the nine parts of "The Animatrix," serving not as diversions to, but as required reference for, anyone daring to traverse the treacherous mindscape of the Matrix.

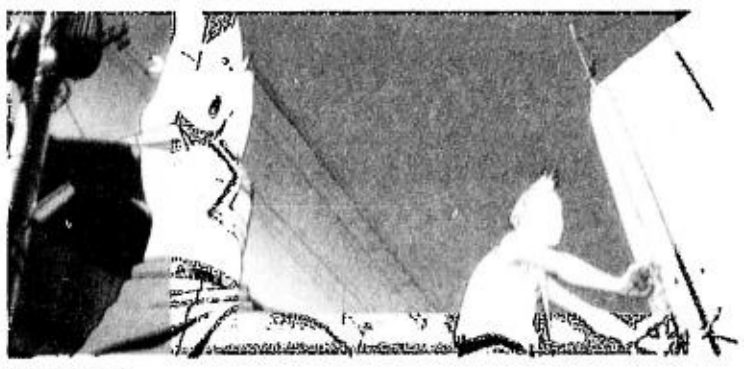
Four of these nine shorts were previously available in the Matrix website (www.intothematrix.com), but all nine are available in this release.

Bonus features

"The Animatrix" is available in both DVD and VCD format, but do yourself a favor and get the DVD, as it contains just enough bonus features to redefine "The Animatrix." There's a documentary on how animé ties into the heart of the Matrix trilogy, an add-on for those curious about the making of the trilogy itself. There are featurettes on the video game "Enter the Matrix" from Atari as well as a DVD-ROM Easter egg. The commentary from selected directors, for example, might help explain whatever you've missed.

But it would have been extremely helpful if Chung could explain further about "Matriculated," or

ANIMATRIX/ C6



'BEYOND'

Abrupt departure

From page C5

ra's next film for Sampaguita, "Guy and Pip," had to be shot at night inside the studio compound.

When the finale was scheduled to be shot, Danny was sick with the flu. He was resting in bed, expecting German or Mar to direct the scene. But he was ordered by phone to report to the set despite the high fever he was running. He was told that Guy didn't want to shoot the finale if he wasn't going to direct it. So, Danny had to drag himself out of bed to finish the movie, which turned out to be a record-breaking blockbuster.

So many film recollections, the highlights of the many decades Danny spent in the movies as musical director, scriptwriter, director and close friend to stars and producers alike.

He also treasured loving memories of stars like **Susan Roces, Gloria Romero, Rita Gomez** and **Amalia Fuentes** who helped make his sometimes frustrating years in show biz ultimately memorable and fulfilling. How they must mourn his abrupt departure now.

Ogie's new CD

Hitmaker **Ogie Alcasid** will launch his latest album on Channel 7's noontime show, "S.O.P.," today. The album marks Ogie's 15th years in show business, so it has 15 songs, all composed by him. The carrier single is "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala."

'Animatrix' to the max

From page C5

perhaps have the Wachowskis talk more about the entire project. The language and subtitling functions are particularly useful. For hardcore animé fans, try watching the shorts with Japanese audio tracks and English subtitles.

Seamless

Aside from "Osiris" and "Kid's Story," everything else feels more concise, better integrated. Ironically, "The Animatrix," for the most part, simply feels more real in Japanese.

That, then, is the most interesting element about "The Animatrix," about how it melds animé and Western-type animation and movie-making into a single, almost seamless experience, much like the fusion of man and machine foretold in the Matrix.

"Someone tell me why it feels more real when I dream than when I'm awake," asks the Kid. That is, in its own way, how "The Animatrix" works. It opens up the hallways and doors of the Matrix in ways that the movies have not. It not only adds to the understanding and experience of plunging into the rabbit hole, but "The Animatrix" is perhaps an altogether other experience, another color of pill, another rabbit hole. Press play, and dive in.

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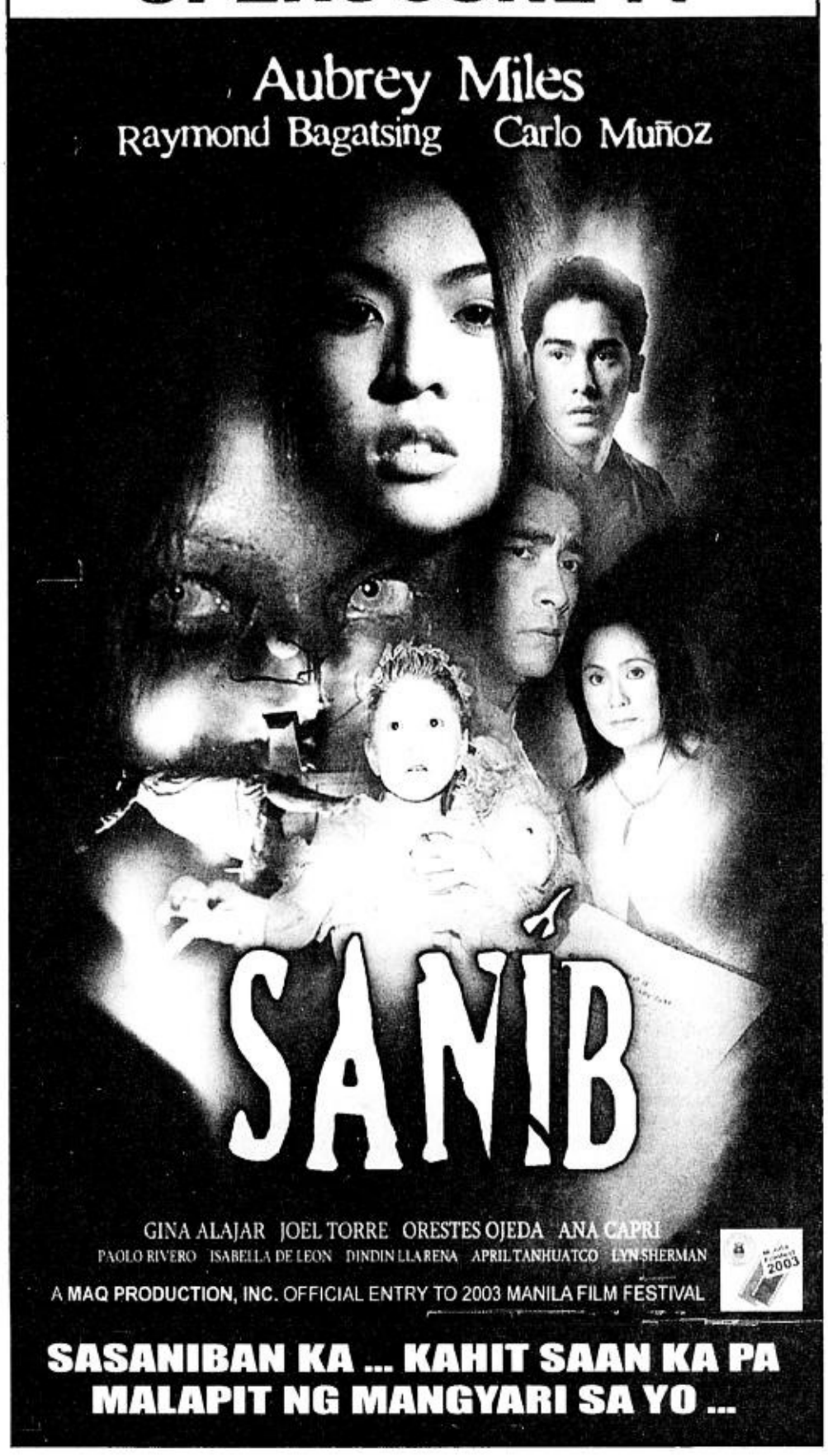
OPENS JUNE 11

Aubrey Miles
Raymond Bagatsing Carlo Muñoz



GINA ALAJAR JOEL TORRE ORESTES OJEDA ANA CAPRI
PAOLO RIVERO ISABELLA DE LEON DINDIN LLARENA APRIL TANHUATCO LYN SHERMAN
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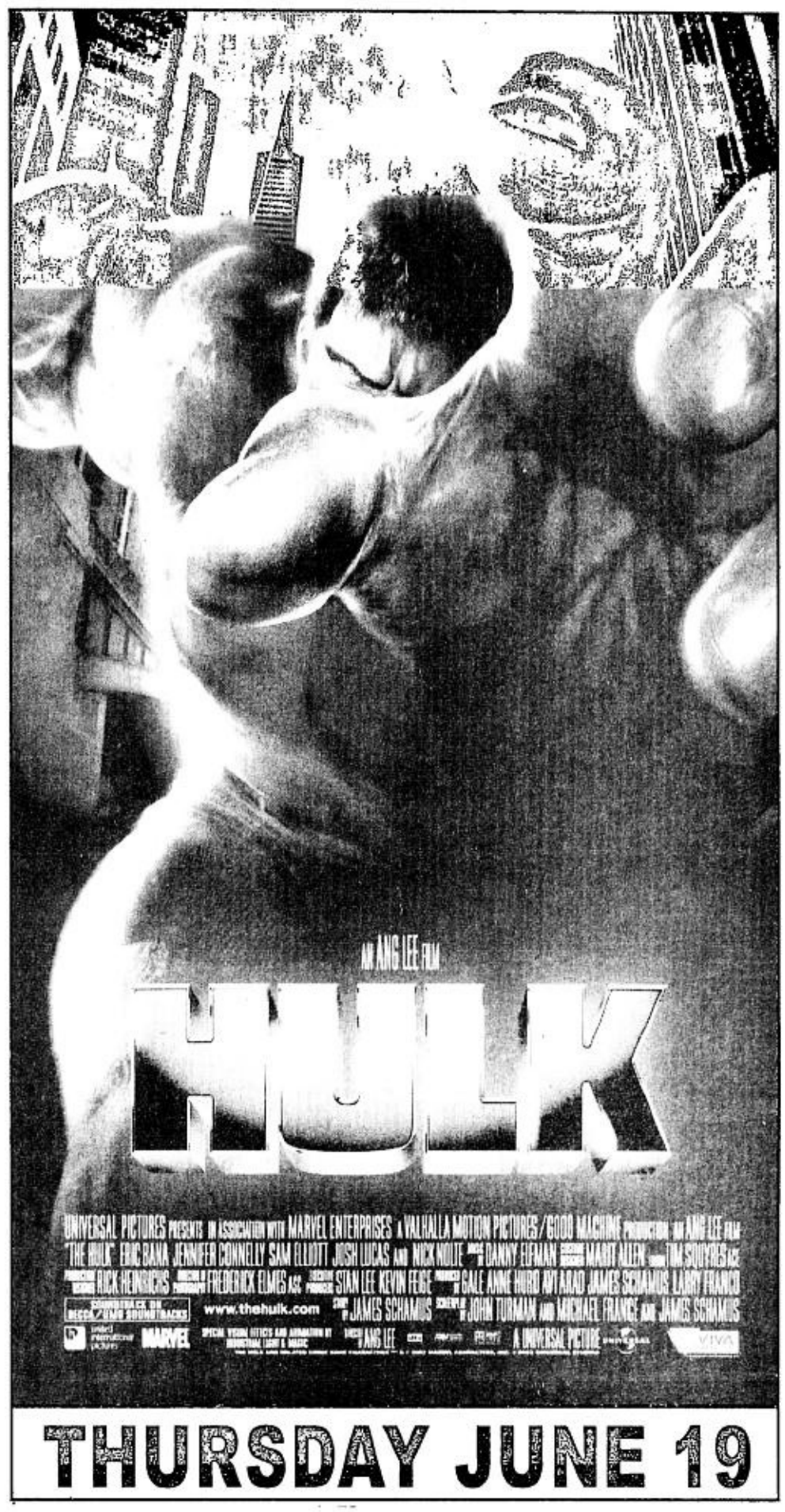
SASANIBAN KA ... KAHIT SAAN KA PA MALAPIT NG MANGYARI SA YO ...



THURSDAY JUNE 19

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BANATAN AT RATRATANG WALANG TINITIRA.
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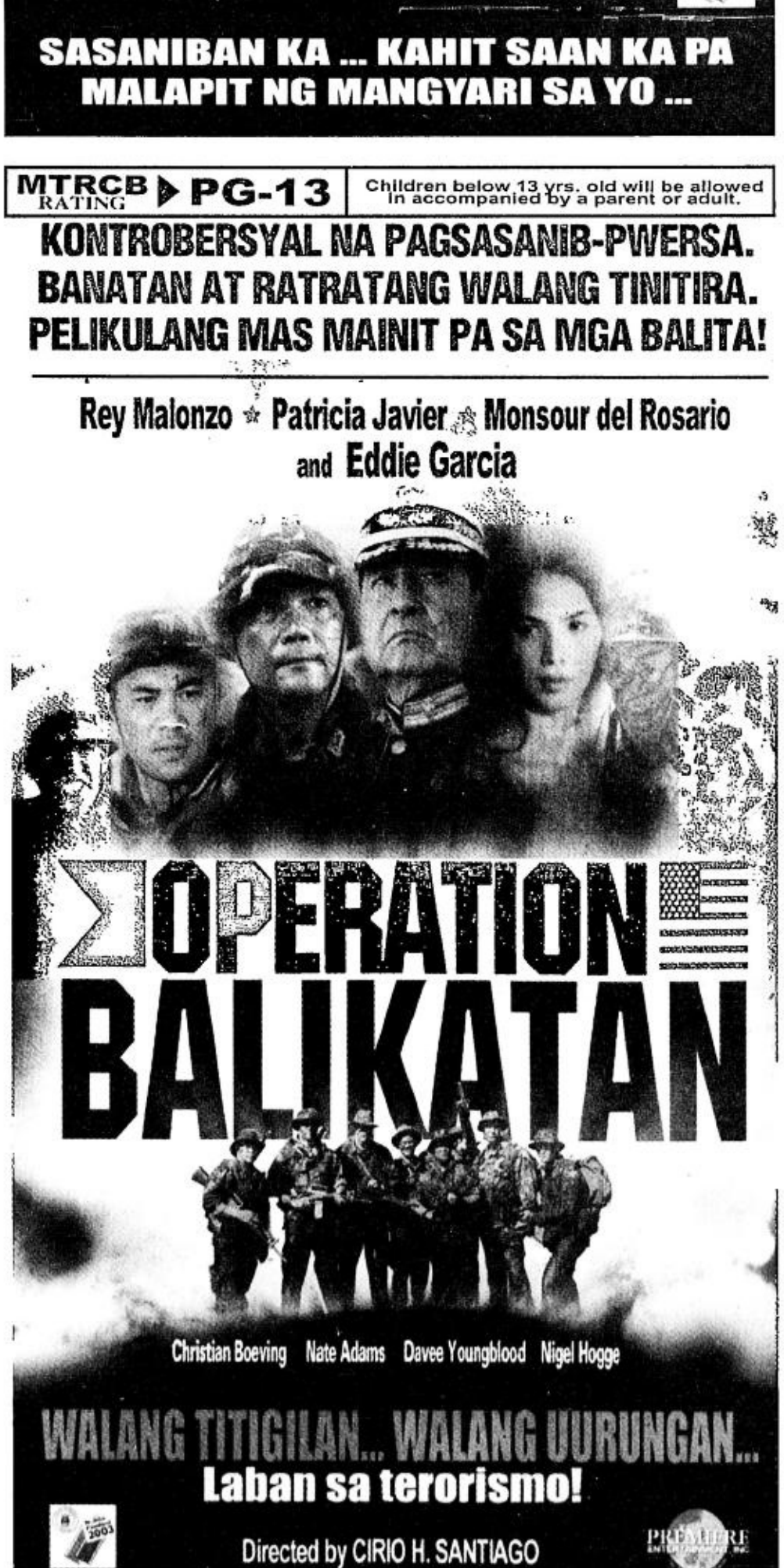
Rey Malonzo ☆ Patricia Javier ☆ Monsour del Rosario
and Eddie Garcia



Christian Boeving Nate Adams Davee Youngblood Nigel Hogge

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Laban sa terorismo!

Directed by CIRIO H. SANTIAGO

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ARA at MAUI
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Nasaan ang tunay na pag-ibig?

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MY MVP VALENTINE

Very Very Exciting!
Ang aksyon ng Slamdunk at kilig ng love stories combined!

Simula June 9 5pm

Very Very Kiliti! **Si Jack, mega-taxi driver na! Mega-store ni Mang Mags bubuksan na! Ang masayang Kool barkada, madadagdagan pa!**

Simula Martes, June 10 GMA KiliTV

3-on-3 dakdakan ng mga bida ng KiliTV!
Maki-fastbreak gabi-gabi sa Bubble Gang, June 13 • Idol ko si Kap, June 14
Daddy Di Do Du, June 15 • Daboy en Da Girl, June 16
Kool Ka Lang Oo Naman, June 17 • Nuts Entertainment, June 18

First week pa lang yan ng ating Very Very Happy celebration!
Sa mga susunod na linggo, mas marami ka pang aabangan!

GMA

Kapuso ng pamilyang Pilipino, anumang kulay ng buhay.

ENTERTAINMENT

LAST LETTER. Dolphy got a letter and a cassette tape from Holmsen a few days before the latter was killed. Flanking the comedy king at the wake are Holmsen's cousin Rafael Dalit and niece Teresita Lagman. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Friends to play Holmsen's music

By Marinel R. Cruz

HOLMSEN

THE FRIENDS and colleagues of slain Sampaguita Pictures musical and movie director Danny Holmsen will gather tomorrow, Monday, to pay tribute to "Direk Danny" in a memorial concert at the Sampaguita compound in Quezon City.

Holmsen was supposed to be involved in a concert on June 28 at the Araneta Coliseum, also in Quezon City, according to his niece Teresita Lagman. Instead, participants of the Araneta concert would perform tomorrow in the Sampaguita tribute to Holmsen, she said.

Also expected to take part in the tribute are Holmsen's close friends in show business. The concert starts 6 p.m.

"His music will be played on the eve of his burial," said Lagman Thursday night at Holmsen's wake in the Sampaguita chapel. "A white screen will be put up in the center of the Sampaguita compound."

Holmsen, 72, and a companion, Norman Abarte, 24, a writer of PM tabloid, were found dead last June 2 in Holmsen's two-story apartment on Harvard Street in Cubao, Quezon City.

Police said Holmsen died from a broken skull, while Abarte was stabbed in the chest and neck.

Investigators said they were looking into the possibility that his houseboy, identified only as "Jerry Bisaya," was behind the killing.

Holmsen wrote songs and directed hit movies for Sampaguita Pictures in the '60s and '70s. Some of his movies featured the very popular Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III love team (***see related story below***).

Holmsen also directed "Good Morning, Teacher," which starred Amalia Fuentes and Dolphy.

Dolphy went to Holmsen's wake Thursday night. He said he received a package from Holmsen only last May 30, a Friday.

Three days later, he learned that Holmsen had been killed.

He said the package contained a cassette tape of Holmsen's compositions and a letter urging him to listen to the tape.

"Danny said what was recorded could be the last of his works that I would ever get to hear," said Dolphy. "It turned out that he was right."

He recalled that he had known Holmsen as early as 1950 "when I was still an actor on radio. He was a very hardworking and patient person. I never heard him raise his voice in anger."

Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, lawyer Espiridion Laxa who is chair of Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) and talk show host Inday Badiday also came to the wake Thursday night.

Abrupt departure

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Monday night, we were shocked to learn that veteran Sampaguita Pictures musical director and film director **Danny Holmsen** had been killed in his Cubao apartment. Through the years, we've received missives from Danny about his various recording projects and months ago we interviewed him for the book we're writing about Sampaguita Pictures.

TV reports said Danny's companion had also been killed, and speculated that the culprit could have been a houseboy who had fled with Danny's valuables.

But all that means little to us. What matters most is that Danny is no longer with us, and it's such a waste. Because when he was active in show biz, Danny Holmsen was one of the busiest and most prolific musical directors around and then some.

In the early 1950s, Sampaguita's legendary **Doc Perez** tapped Danny as musical director of "Anak sa Panalangin." Little did both of them realize that it would be the start of a long professional and personal relationship that would also see Danny writing scripts for and directing some Sampaguita Pictures movies in the early '70s, most of them starring then teen phenomenon **Nora Aunor**.

Sampaguita made Danny a very busy film worker. He probably held the record for the most number of film involvement in one year. In 1968, he was musical director of a whopping 48 films (some of them outside Sampaguita)!

Since Sampaguita movies in those days were often music-oriented, the studio's stars had to do a lot of singing onscreen. If they couldn't carry a tune, no problem--they simply lip-synched to the pre-recorded voices of the likes of **Sylvia la Torre** (for Gloria, Lolita, Rita, etc.) or **Bing Villena** (for Luis, Ric, Romeo).

As Danny continued to work at Sampaguita, he became a close family friend of the Vera-Perezes. That's why, after he died, Danny's wake was held at the Sampaguita chapel, where his friends and colleagues in TV and the movies are congregating to pay their last respects.

After working as musical director at Sampaguita for more years, Danny was also assigned to write some screenplays.

His first directorial assignment was the anthology (seven-story) movie, "Sweet Valentines," with a different director assigned to each episode.

His first solo directing assignment was the 1971 production "Fiesta Extravaganza," starring **Tirso Cruz III** and **Aurora Salve**. Later that year, he also megged "Sweet Matutina" with **Jay Ilagan**, **Marifi** and **Rudy Fernandez**.

But those two movies were nothing compared to "Guy and Pip," starring Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III, which Danny co-directed with **Mar S. Torres** and **German Moreno**. The film marked the start of Danny's "Nora connection," one of the unexpected highlights of his professional and personal life.

The first movie they worked on together was "Bahay Kubo," where she was a guest artist and sang only two songs. Later, Danny and **Medy Tarnate** co-scripted a Nora and Tirso starrer, "Nasaan Ka, Inay?"

They worked again in "Young at Heart," where Danny was the musical director and also directed the musical numbers. This was a big hit, the highest-grossing entry in the Quezon City Film Festival.

Because there was a court injunction, No-

ABRUPT/ C6

SUNDAY, JUN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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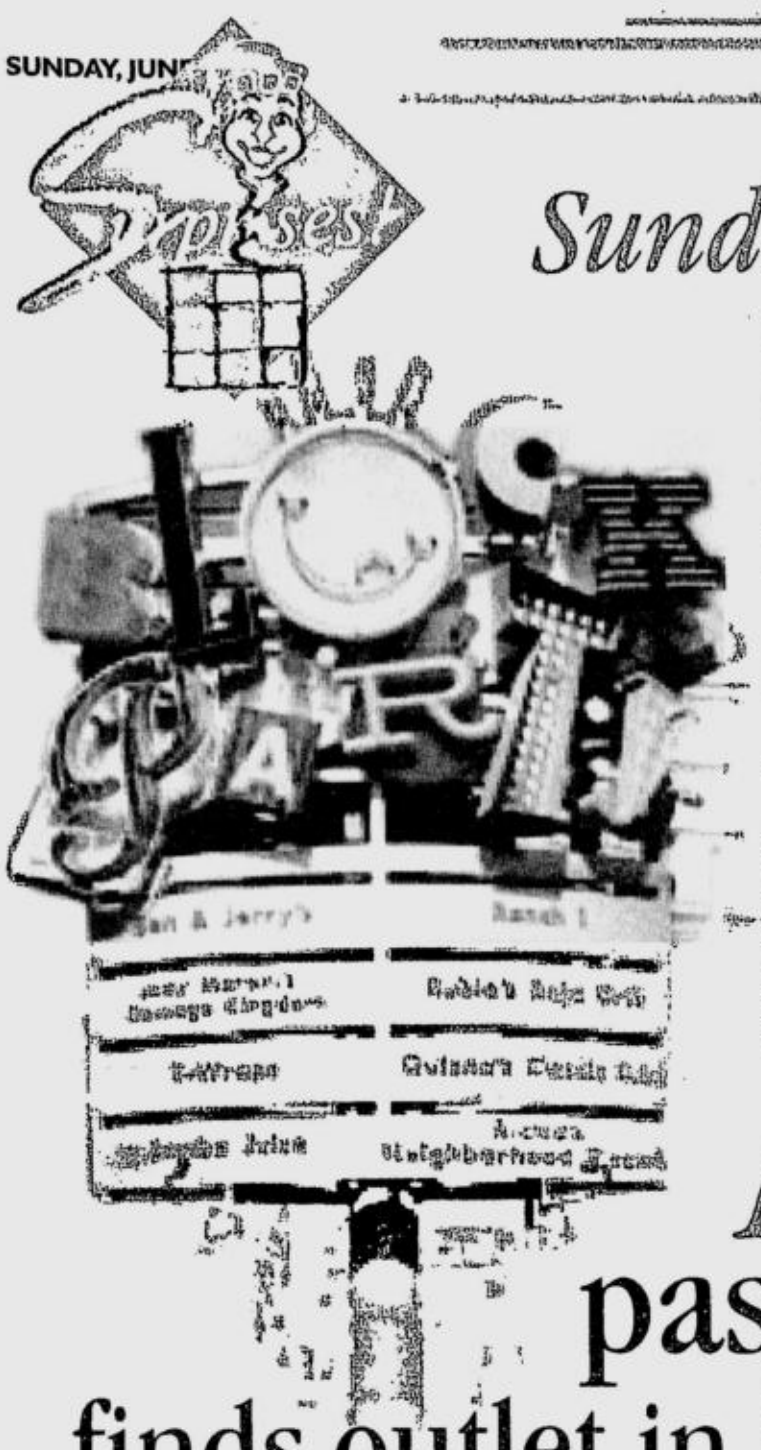
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



CAN'T afford Saks on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue? Shop the outlet.

CONSPICUOUS consumptions and malls of all sizes and shapes make the American landscape interesting.

Asian passion for shopping finds outlet in malls of America

WHITE HOUSE it is not but the shopping mall Potomac Mills is just as big an attraction in Washington DC.

By Alex Y. Vergara

AMERICANS have caught on to the Filipino's legendary addiction to shopping. This was evident at the 35th International Powwow held recently at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Hardly had the Filipino media group—composed of Vic Agustin, Ivy Mendoza and myself—warmed up our seats during the convention's so-called "reverse media marketplace" when representatives from three of the United States' leading mall operators, including one from Minnesota-based Mall of America, approached us in succession to make a pitch. Our participation was sponsored by Northwest Airlines, whose country general manager, Rey Nishihira, is also chair of TIA in Manila.

The reverse media marketplace is a novel idea conceived several years ago by the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) to help sellers or exhibitors promote their respective products among foreign journalists covering the event.

"It worked very well last year," said Michael Pina, TIA manager for communications and public relations. "It allowed more exhibitors to chat with more journalists."

The TIA is a private, non-profit organization tasked to promote the concerns and interests of all segments of the US travel business, a $530 billion-industry accounting for six percent of the country's total employment. In the past two years, in the wake of 9-11, 30 percent of all jobs lost in the US had come from this sector, making the need for TIA all too obvious.

Our group earlier did the rounds of the regular media marketplace, where members of both local and international media chose from among hundreds of sellers to interview. A bigger exhibition hall catering to buyers or travel agents opened the next day.

The SARS virus has kept people homebound but a gungho USA wants to lure visitors back with its name-brand outlets and mile-long malls

A number of cities and states offered interesting tour packages built around art, culture, sports and history, but would a substantial number of Filipinos care to visit New York City's numerous museums, go white-water rafting along some remote river in the north or trace pioneers Lewis and Clarke's trail as they explored the uncharted west?

Universal language

Shopping, however, is definitely one language every Filipino understands. Thus, we lost no time heading to representatives of the biggest mall and outlet center operators, such as Virginia-based The Mills Corp. and New Jersey-based Chelsea Property Group.

Chelsea owns and runs 20 or so outlets, including three in Japan. One of its biggest premium properties, Woodbury Common Premium Outlets, an hour's drive north of New York City, boasts of carrying such names as Bally, Burberry, Marc Jacobs, Christian Dior, Coach, Donna Karan, Escada, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Kate Spade, Nautica, Nike, Salvatorre Ferregamo, Versace, among others.

Jean Guinup and Michael O'Connell, Chelsea's director of marketing and senior marketing manager, respectively, debunked notions that their chain of outlets sell so-called irregular merchandise not fit to be carried in upscale malls.

"Some of the items are from last season or from excess inventory," said Guinup, "but every item each outlet store carries is of 'first' quality."

As a whole, international arrivals in the US dropped by 11 percent in 2001 due mainly to stiffer competition from other countries, particularly Australia, China and Great Britain. Unlike some countries, the only marketing effort to encourage inbound tourism to the US is done by the private sector, including a comprehensive web page (see.America.org). TIA is pushing for a US tourism marketing campaign funded by both private and public funds.

Many American retailers remain optimistic that big-spending Asians will soon be back by the planeloads.

"Asians generally spend more money on shopping," said O'Connell. "It's customary for the Japanese, for example, to give presents to friends and family back home."

Filipinos, although not as big spenders as the Japanese, can relate to such an endearing custom. Witness the reinvention of the corrugated box into the so-called *balikbayan* box, an improvised container designed to hold presents for every member of the traveling Pinoy's barangay.

Brand oriented

"Most Asians are also brand-conscious," O'Connell added. "They don't think twice about buying some of the most expensive signature items."

As prices are supposedly lower in outlet stores, shoppers are said to save as much as 25 percent to 65 percent on almost all items. Except for the ones in Orlando and Las Vegas, Chelsea's other outlets are located several miles outside major cities—for a reason.

"It's our way of protecting a particular brand and its image," said Guinup. "It's counterproductive for the same brand to compete within the same area. Since merchandise sold at outlet stores are sourced directly from manufacturers, we're able to pass on the savings to consumers."

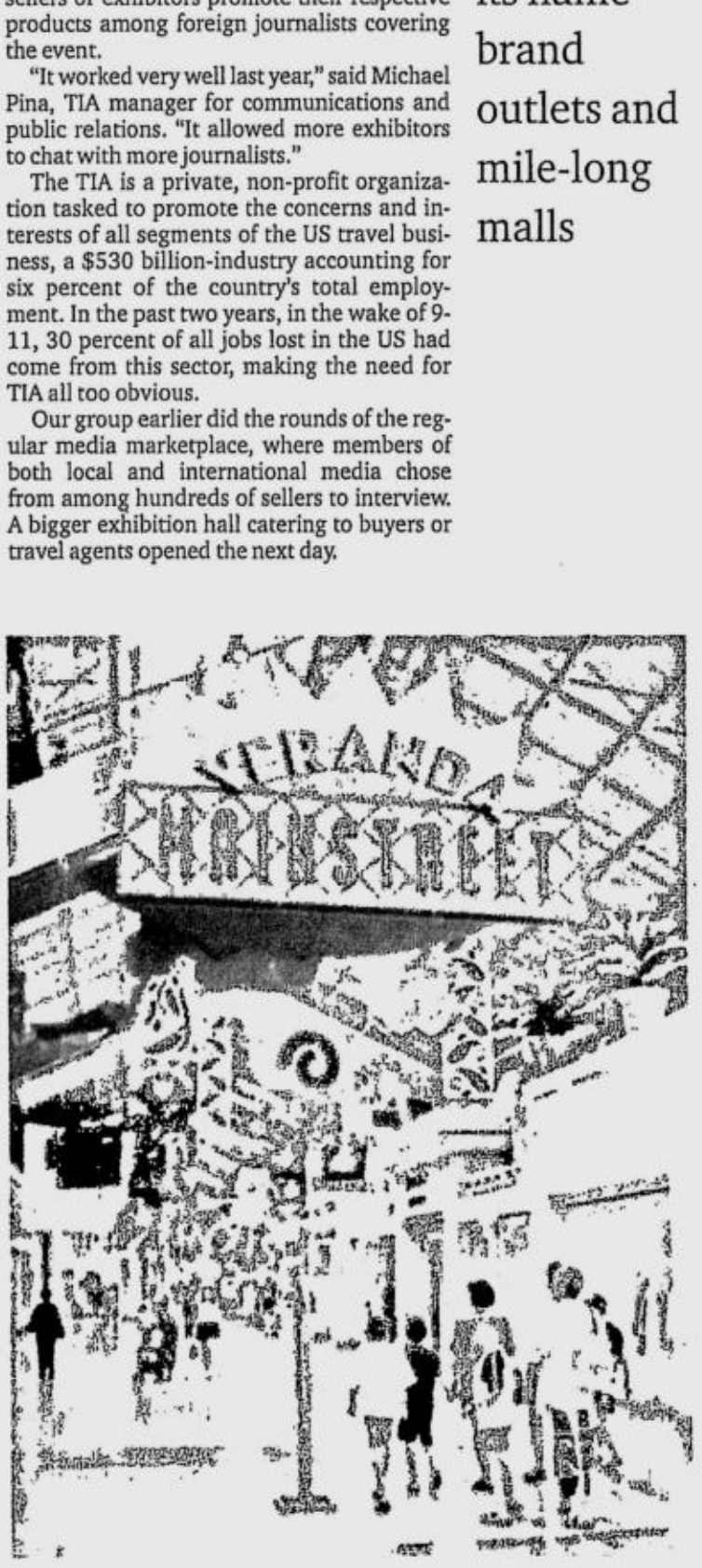
The Mills, another big name in the US, manages 15 properties, including Potomac Mills in Washington DC, the Block at Orange in Anaheim and the soon-to-open Xanadu in Madrid. One of its properties, the Sawgrass Mills in Fort Lauderdale, is said to be Florida's largest retail and entertainment center with over 400 name-brand stores and outlets, full-service restaurants, cinemas and entertainment venues.

Like Chelsea, the Mills offers various forms of discounts, including tie-ups with a number of hotels and cruise operators to lure in more shoppers. Certain hotels, for instance, enable their guests to avail themselves of discounts of up to 25 percent by issuing them discount coupons.

"A typical shopper spends an average of three hours at the mall," said Russell Lee, assistant vice president of the Mills. "A tourist always ends up spending more [time and money]." More so if he or she is a shopaholic Filipino.

Northwest Airlines flies twice daily to St. Louis via Tokyo-Narita and Nagoya.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



INTERNAL affairs in US malls (left and above) have a carnival, sometimes garden atmosphere.

LARGEST in Florida, the Sawgrass Mills in Ft. Lauderdale.

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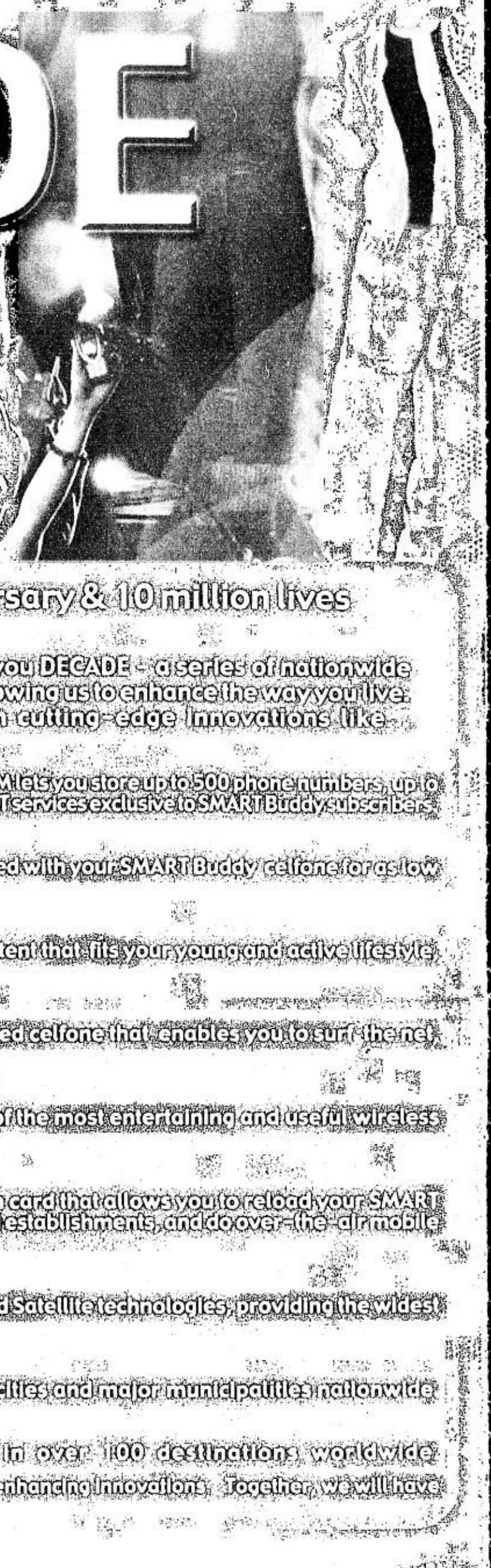

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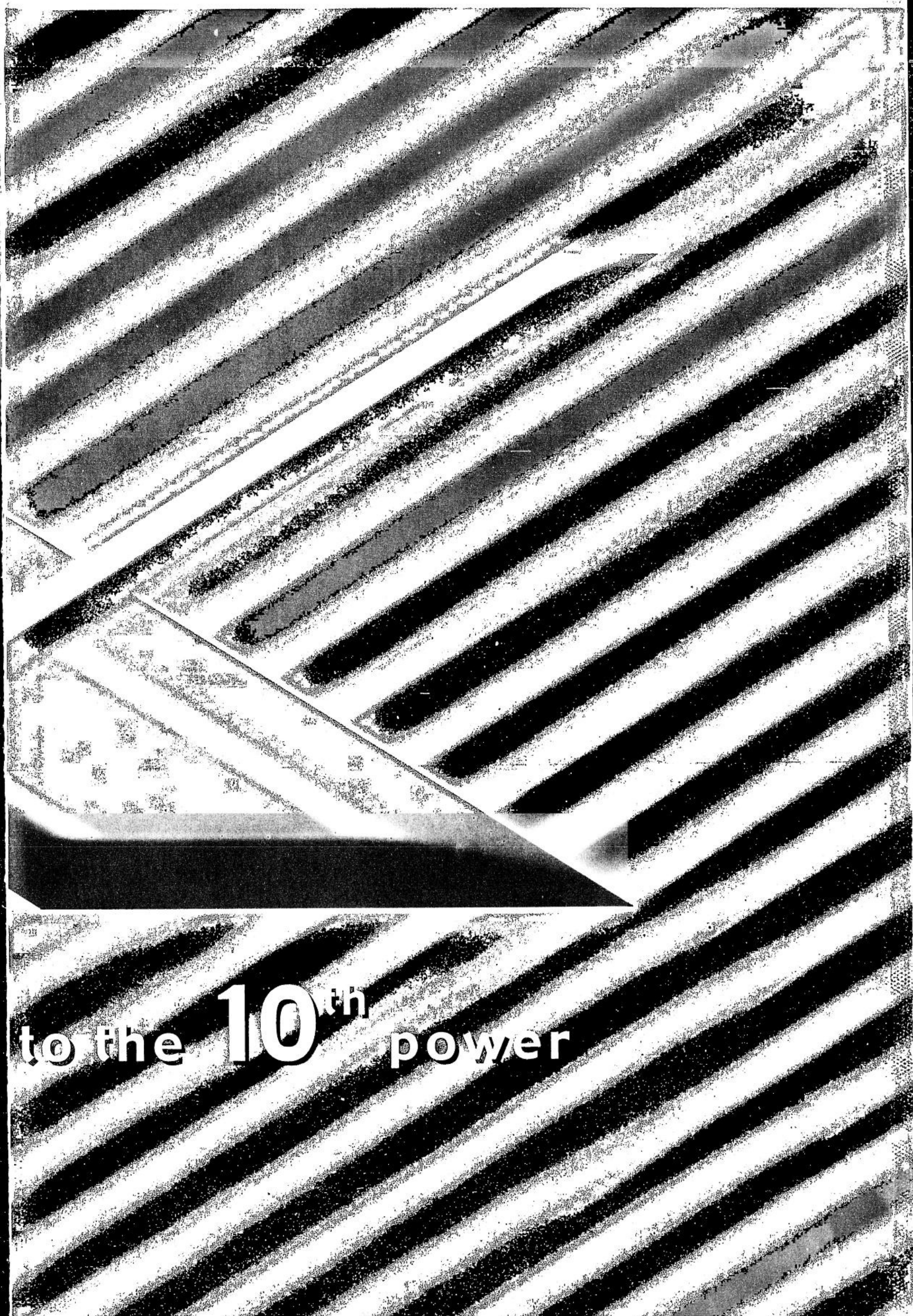
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SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

AMERICAN EYE CENTER
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The art of romancing the barong

GABRIEL Barredo and his Silk Cocoon barong

JEANNE Goulbourn of Silk Cocoon told Tatler editor Anton San Diego over lunch one day she was going to reinterpret the barong by having prominent Filipino artists put their signature styles onto it.

The project led to Goulbourn's artistic collaboration with some of the country's leading creative talents, together with Tatler magazine (April issue)—Mauro Malang Santos, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Gus Albor, Conrad Onglao, Impy Pilapil, Claude Tayag, Gabriel Barredo, Arturo Luz and Wig Tysmans.

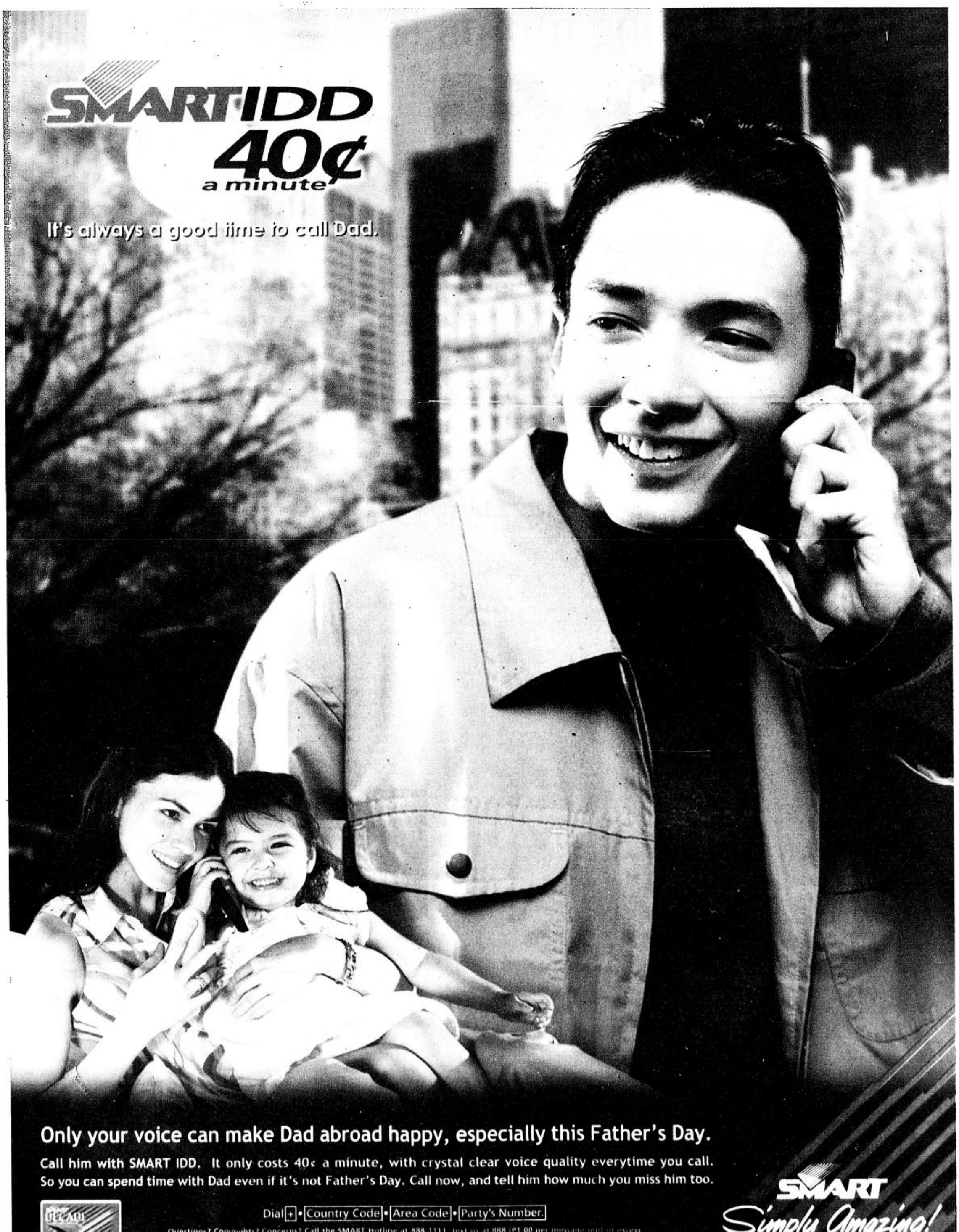
The results were striking, perfect for Father's Day. Each barong was so different, reflecting each artist's personal touch in the varying media. Photographer Tysmans' sensitive eye recorded the artistic event.

Malang, the modernist painter, works in his studio in his Silk Cocoon barong, with its hand-embroidered scene of two women from his painting "Harvest."

Dennis Valdes, a member of the INQUIRER board, was the ideal model for his interior designer-wife Tessa's modern barong—a black ramie linen barong with contrasting off-white hand-stitching and scattered mirrors. The unconventional design was fun but full of class, just like Tessa.

The abstract expressionism of Albor's limited-edition barong at the Silk Cocoon boutique was truly a work of art. The internationally renowned artist from Bicol hand-painted the fabric with red, black and yellow acrylic stripes and swirls.

THE ART/ E6



WORKING moms string beads together during the tri-workshop.

Women professionals take the day off to learn rare pleasures like beading, baking and shaving off unwanted hair

PARTICIPANTS assist each other in assembling the tiramisu.

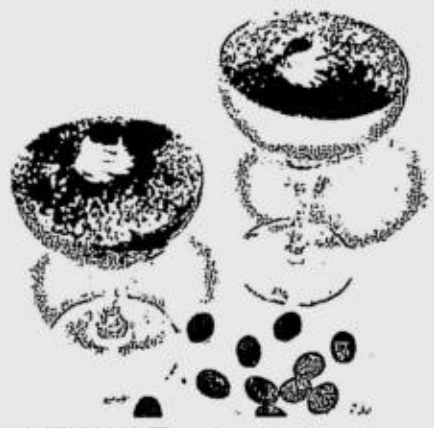
From working moms to workshopping moms

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

WORKING moms need a break from office deadlines, client calls, paperwork and, most especially, housework. They should have time for themselves. They should have time for simple pleasures like beading, baking and body treatment.

A day of fun and pampering was recently carved out of the busy schedules of a select group of working moms. The unique workshop was devoted to moms who had long wanted to make their own beaded jewelry, bake a mean dessert and know the easiest depilation process. It was made possible by Deco Centrum, French Baker, Body Natur, Swarovski Components and ABS-CBN.

BODY Natur products demonstrate the easiest depilation process.



TRADITIONAL Tiramisu

FRENCH Baker's Johnlu Koa shows off the finished product.

Dubbed "Beads, Bake and Body," the tri-workshop was held at Deco Centrum's Le Salon Baccarat in Annapolis, Greenhills.

About 50 working moms participated in the workshop, which started with a session on creative jewelry.

During the workshop, Swarovski Components distributed a work-kit containing select crystal beads and tools so participants could make their own style-perfect accessories.

Inky Nakpil demonstrated basic beading techniques. She also presented the different crystal beads ideal for bracelets and necklaces. "We observed that most working moms enjoy accessorizing themselves. With this workshop, we wanted to show them the materials they need to use to make their own accessories and how to do it right," she said.

As expected, the demo ate up most of the time since most of the moms, mostly first-timers, would get lost along the way in the "hooking and looping" of the beads. Nakpil was swamped with questions.

Baking delight

Johnlu Koa of the popular The French Baker treated moms to a delightful recipe of Tiramisu. Prior to baking, Johnlu gave each participant a European sponge (disc shape) to use as base for the tiramisu. Forks, knives, spoons and plates were also distributed for the hands-on demo.

Moms were taught how to make the coffee syrup and the simple sugar syrup before making the cream mixture. "When making simple sugar syrup, never stir the sugar and water, but turn off the heat as soon as it boils," Johnlu warned the participants.

Johnlu would intermittently entertain questions from the crowd while working on the cake mixer. He also showed the proper way to whip cold cream to achieve soft peaks, not hard peaks. "Tiramisu is one of the easiest desserts if you want to impress your family and friends," he said.

The hands-on baking demo was sponsored by Magnolia Gold Butter.

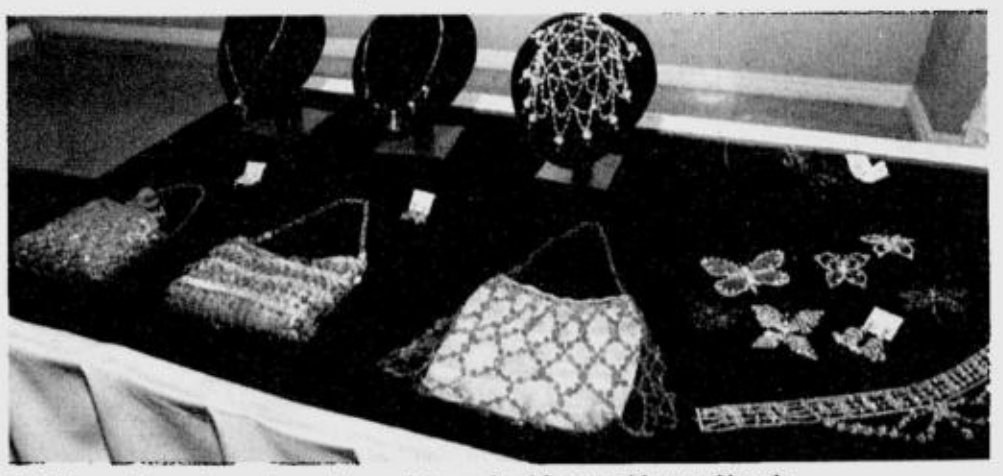
Body basics

Finally, participants were treated to a sensuous lesson in the art of depilation.

Their problem with unwanted hair (on the legs and the underarm) was solved through the Body Natur Depilatory Line. A product of Viokox from Spain and distributed by Blooming Fields Philippines Inc., Body Natur is a hair-removal line of waxing and depilatory products designed to make life easier for the modern-day Eve. "It is the easiest, quickest and economical way of removing hair compared to the traditional methods of plucking and shaving," said Maizie Frances SyCip-Qua. "Working moms would find it handy and convenient."

Only a few moms actually submitted themselves to the sampling of this product (on the legs). But, most of them went home with a complete waxing kit that they could use in the comfort of their home. The kit included 250g of Body Natur Wax Perles, a wax warmer, aluminum containers, wooden spatula and instructional guide.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



BAGS, necklaces, brooches and bracelets made of Swarovski crystal beads

The Experts Speak Up! Sore Throat Care this Rainy Season

Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD, FPSOHNS, FPCS
Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist
(UERM Memorial Medical Center; Manila Doctors Hospital)
Asst. Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

This time of the year is characterized by torrent storms, winds, and rain showers that threaten to dampen anyone's day. It is during this season that respiratory ailments are most common, among them, colds, cough, fevers, and sore throats. Sore throat care and management are among the most immediate concerns of people when the rainy season comes around the corner. Having a sore throat can get definitely in the way of your daily activities and hinder you from performing properly.

A sore throat (pharyngitis) is characterized by persistent, uncomfortable pain and a burning sensation in the throat area. The inflamed throat can be irritating - causing difficulty in swallowing, loss of voice, fever and headache. Its symptoms are enough to bog you down completely. But far from just being a bother, it can actually lead to complications on your health. Read on to know more about the ailment and how to battle it with suitable treatment.

What causes sore throat?

Your sore throat may be due to allergens, such as pollen, that irritate the nose and throat. It may also be the result of your vigorous yelling at a sports match, or breathing through your mouth during the cold weather. It may seem simple, but sore throat pain can in fact be triggered by more serious causes. They can be due to viral or bacterial infections and occasionally, even tumors.

Majority of sore throats are caused by viruses such as the common cold. Viral sore throats are associated with flu and colds, and are accompanied by runny nose, sneezing, and body aches and pains. They are highly contagious and can spread easily by contact. Sore throats may be symptoms of viral infections such as measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough. It takes about a week for the body to build antibodies against the typical sore throat virus.

Mononucleosis or "mono" is a type of viral sore throat that takes more than a week to be cured. Named as the "kissing disease," this illness is common among teenagers (first time kissers), causing severe sore throat, swollen neck glands, fatigue, fever, and breathing difficulties.

5% to 10% of sore throats are caused by bacteria. The most common of which is the streptococcus (hence "strep throat," a condition which on rare occasions, may lead to rheumatic fever/heart disease, pneumonia, and kidney damage). Strep throat often occurs with high fever, white patches on the throat and tonsillar area, and tender glands in the neck.

Who gets sore throat?

Almost everyone gets a sore throat at one time or another. It is more common, though, in children from 5 to 10 years of age, than in adolescents and adults. Sore throats occur typically during the cold, rainy season when upper respiratory infections are more frequent.

How can I treat my sore throat?

It is relatively easy to determine if one has a sore throat, but it is difficult to identify what caused it without doing laboratory tests. Sore throats may either be acute or chronic. Acute sore throats are the more usual, constituting about 90% of sore throats. They appear suddenly and carry on from three to seven days. These sore throats are minor and usually heal without any complications. A chronic sore throat lasts much longer and may be a symptom of an underlying condition or sickness, such as a nose/sinus infection. Sore throats persisting (or worsening) for more than seven days should be an indication for seeking professional medical help, as it may be a sign that the infection is getting worse or that a throat abscess may be forming.

Managing sore throats need not be difficult. Enough rest is an important measure for complete cure. Gargling with an antiseptic mouthwash is proven to give relief to the discomfort brought by sore throat, plus it also brings down the bacteria/viral/and fungal count in the mouth. Increasing liquid intake, and taking painkillers also help. Antibiotics may be taken for bacterial sore throats although this decision is best left to your doctor.

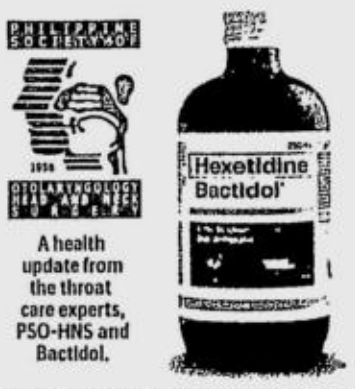
A healthy throat is achievable with sufficient care and attention. Always practice good sanitary habits and wash your hands regularly. Hoarseness can most often be improved or avoided by voice rest (speaking only when needed at a normal volume - don't shout nor whisper). Avoid people with sore throat and don't share food and utensils with anyone. Also, stopping smoking is sound advice.

When should I see my ENT doctor?

Sore throats demand a doctor's attention when it persists longer than the normal seven-day duration and is not associated with any allergy. Consult your ENT doctor if you experience the following signs:

- Severe sore throat
- Extreme difficulty in breathing and swallowing
- Joint pain
- Earache
- Blood in saliva or phlegm
- Lump in the neck
- Temperature of 38 degrees or higher

This rainy season, take all the necessary precautions to stay healthy and safe. Manage your sore throats at the onset!



A health update from the throat care experts, PSO-HNS and Bactidol.

Get closer to Dad

HALLMARK Cards believes in paying tribute to fathers, whether they are here or on the other side of the world. So here are some ideas to honor thy father.

Throw him a memorable party. Video everything, from the gifts to the special cake. Record each of the kids' greetings. Send it to him and tell him that the party is nothing compared to the celebration you'll have when he gets home.

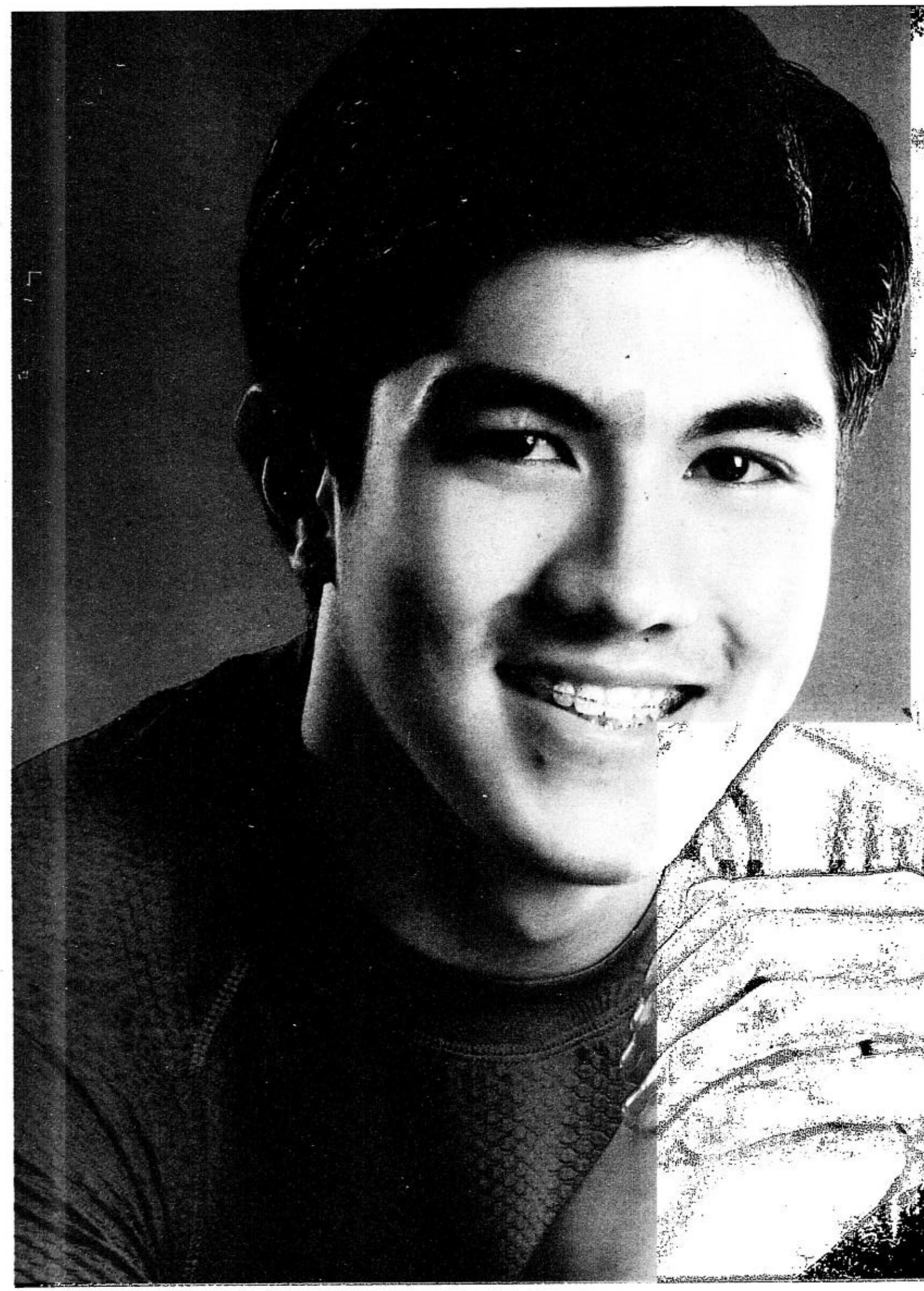
Time capsule: the sweetest belated gift. While he's away, make sure he doesn't miss all the important stuff. Save the kid's artworks, school paper, photos and other bits and pieces he'll be interested in. When he gets home, open the time capsule together.

Kid stuff. Have the kids keep a journal which they can give to dad when he gets home. Better yet, let them write a storybook complete with their own illustrations.

Role-playing. Dress the kids in fun, colorful costumes or dad's clothes and send the photos captioned with special jokes or language unique to him and the kids.

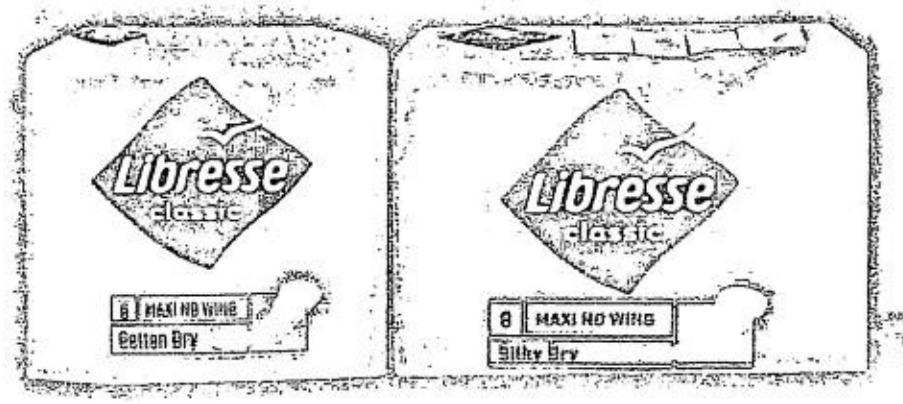
Dear Dad. There's the e-mail and cell phone, but nobody throws away a Hallmark Card. Thank him and describe the wonderful moments you had together and the many important things you had learned from him.

Make every special occasion count with heartwarming lines from Hallmark Cards, available at all National Book Store outlets and other leading bookstores nationwide.



"My girl never takes her period sitting down."

With new Libresse pads, it's no wonder she's secure and comfortable even during her most awkward periods.



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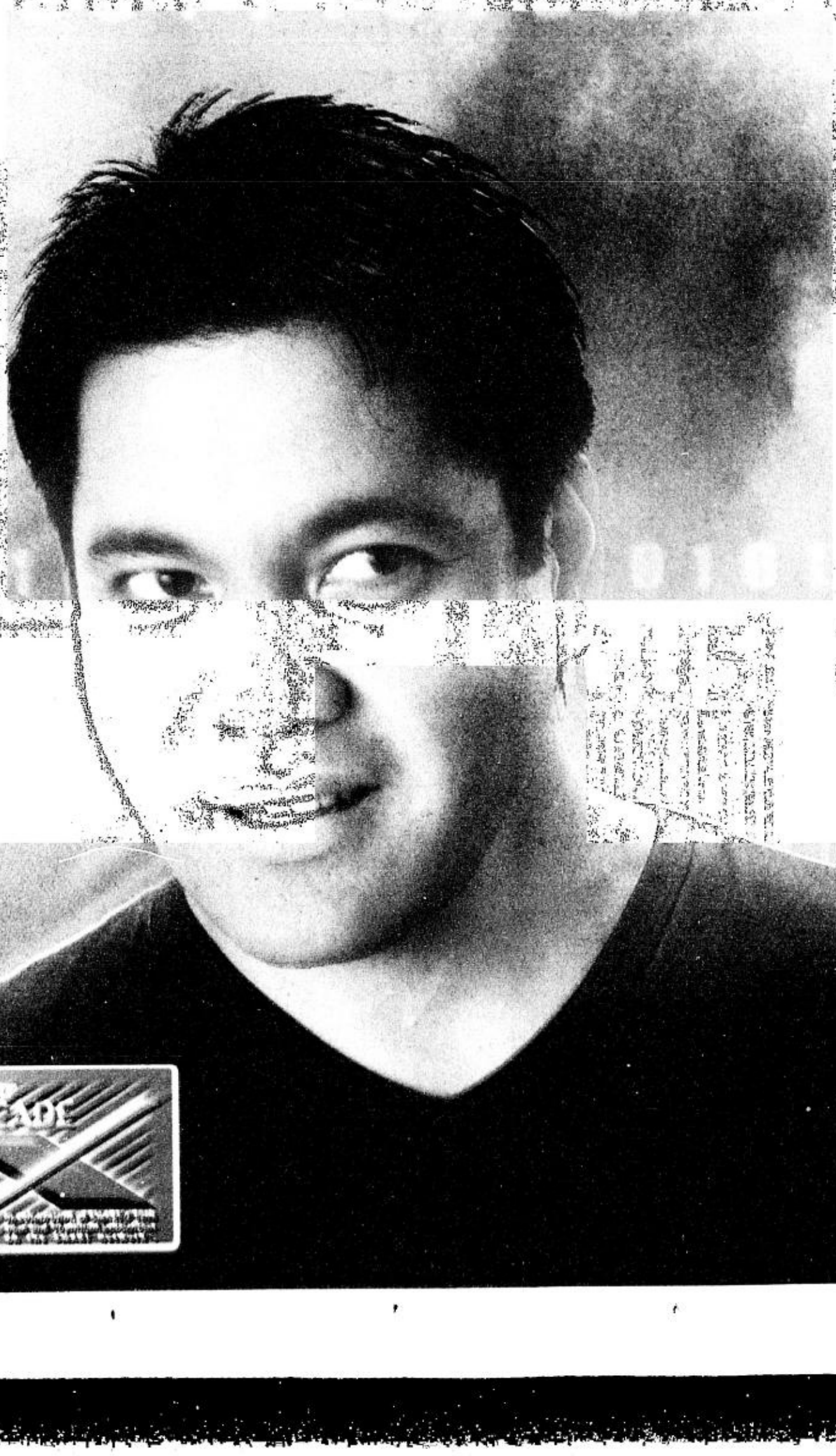

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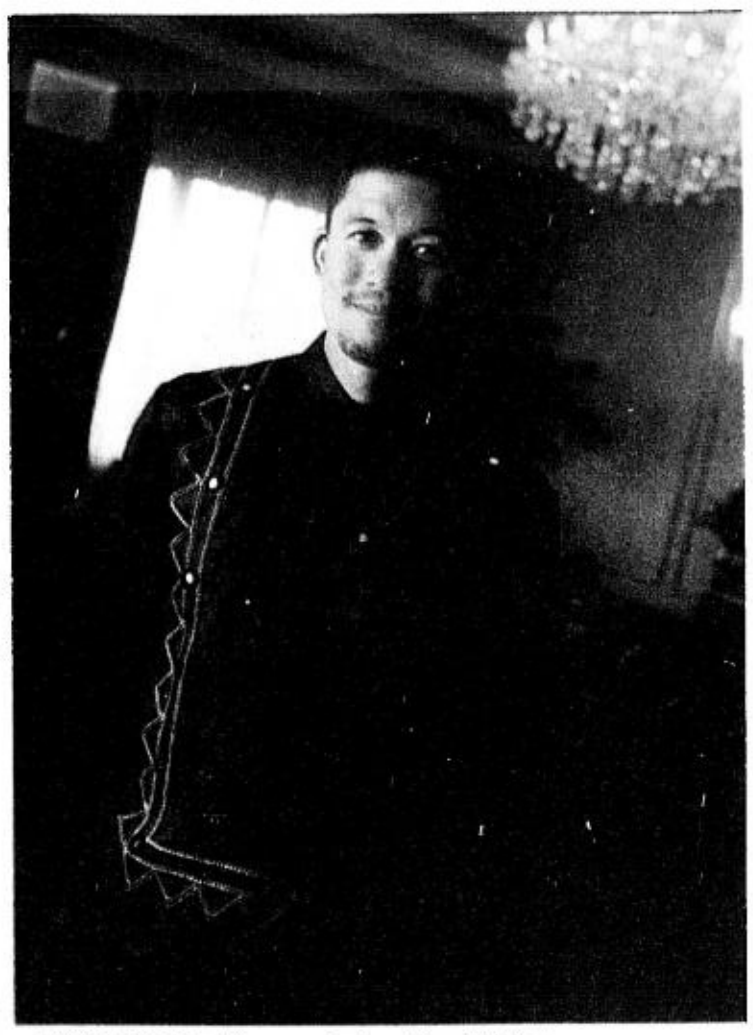
GUS Albor in limited edition barong he designed



DENNIS Valdes in barong designed by wife Tessa

CONRAD Onglao wearing barong he himself designed

The art of romancing the barong

From page E1

The results were so different, it reflected each artist's personal touch

Architect Conrad Onglao, known for the clean lines and Asian influence of his works, demonstrated a keen eye for fashion and details. Although the barong seemed very simple in style, a closer look showed that the white stretch cotton shirt had exaggerated collar and cuffs, and a subtle pale gray embroidery of one of his tools—the pencil.

Sculptor Impy Pilapil designed an embroidery inspired by one of her glass sculptures, "Wind," on a pale gray ramie linen barong, proudly worn by the charming Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company's executive vice president Al Panlilio.

Claude Tayag, sculptor and furniture designer, drew inspiration from the natural curves of wood for his Silk Cocoon barong made of the brand's signature hand-woven silk fabric. It was hand-embroidered with vertical waves from Tayag's own store logo of wood panels.

Gabriel Barredo was photographed in his own home, a work in progress and a work of art in itself.

His barong was in line with his sculptures, which were often made of pieces of junk put together to produce amazing and often mobile creations.

The barong was unconventional and breathtaking, made of sheer handwoven copper silk, with a front panel of alternating pleats leading up to the neck where twisted copper wire was appliquéd to rest at the chest and curve up to his neck.

National Artist Luz created a barong that reflected his minimalist and abstract art. Worn by his friend, former Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, the barong is made of black ramie linen and had a series of small embroidered squares that ran down the front in two lines on each side. Understated and elegant, but purist in style, like the artist himself.

Tysmans played around with one of his photographs for his barong, a subtle and repetitive print of an elegantly posed nude woman taken from the back. Instead of the typical embroidered border, effect was achieved through photo-printing on the beige fabric and detailed with dark gray piping on the cuffs and collar.

The special barong designs are available in limited supply at Silk Cocoon in celebration of the Filipino artist.

Silk Cocoon is at the New World Renaissance Hotel Shopping Arcade, across Greenbelt 3, Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue. Call 811-6856.

MAURO Malang Santos in the barong he designed for Silk Cocoon PHOTOS: WIG TYSMANS

Unique learning center for kids

MARY'S Road owner-directress Dr. Rita Dacanay-Lucas (wearing a blazer, at right) personally entertains queries from parents of students and prospective enrollees.

MARY'S Road Center for Development and Learning (MRCDL) is an innovative educational and learning center for children. It was so named because its founding president, Dr. Maria Rita Dacanay-Lucas, is a devotee of the Blessed Mother.

Dr. Lucas said Mary's Road aims to discover and bring out the "special gifts" God gave to each child, and the "center for development and learning" means that it shall be a place to learn sound principles and theories grounded on research in child growth, development and learning.

The school formally opened in 2001 with only three participants. This year it has 39 graduates of different nationalities—British, German, French, Korean, Japanese and Dutch. The school advocates an open-house style of pre-school education.

Mary's Road provides a comfortable learning environment for pre-schoolers. It has air-conditioned rooms equipped with sound and multi-media systems, a play area, a music area (for piano and voice lessons), a mini-library, an art corner, manipulatives like Lego puzzle blocks, and a computer nook.

MARY'S Road kids are encouraged to open and read books, which they can take home freely for further learning and enjoyment.

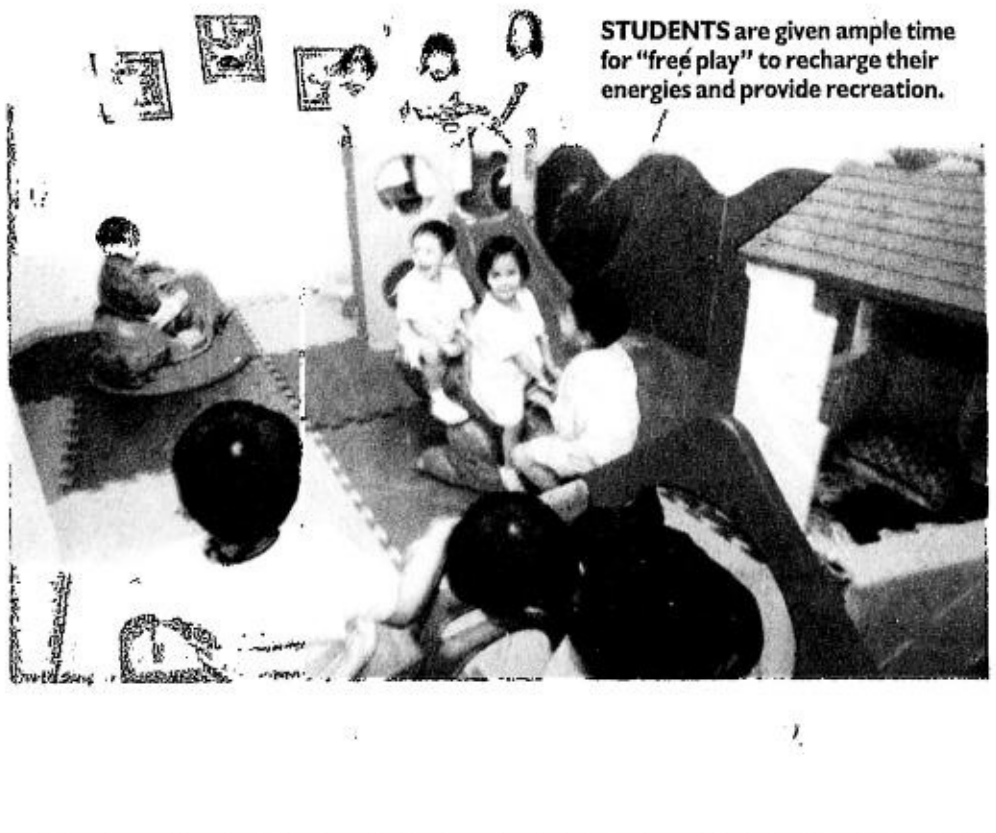
Only six to 12 children are accepted per class. There are no rows of chairs facing the chalkboard. The kids sit on rubber mats on the floor, and chairs and tables are brought in only when they need to do their art assignments.

Lucas, also the school's owner-directress, has a BS Psychology degree, magna cum laude, from Centro Escolar University. She also holds an MA in Psychology and a Doctorate Degree in Philosophy (major in Educational Management) and has taken up additional subjects in Early Childhood Education at the Ateneo de Manila University.

The school's curriculum is based on a template she developed for her doctoral dissertation. In it, she came up with her own preschool management model—the Learning Enhancement through Appropriate Development (LEAD) model to Preschool Education.

The curriculum is designed to suit the developmental needs of children so that the school does not produce a "hurried child," somebody who exhibits acquired or learned skills but only on a mechanical level.

MRCDL is on the 2nd level of Harrison Plaza Mall, Adriatico Street, Manila. Call 535-8652 and 0919-8153593.



STUDENTS are given ample time for "free play" to recharge their energies and provide recreation.

Seminar on trendy hair cuts and colors

SCHWARZKOPF invites hairdressers to its Look and Learn seminar on June 10, 2 p.m., at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Alex Carbonell, creative director for hair and makeup of Propaganda Salon and Fix Training Center, will conduct the seminar on hair, beauty and fashion trends.

GOINGS ON

SEMINARS. The Quezon City Parks Development Foundation, Inc. and Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines, Inc. will hold ecological waste management seminars at Quezon Memorial Circle's Ecology Center. The free workshops are slated on June 14, 21 and 28, 4-6 p.m. Call 927-8130, 776-3293, 412-7088, 920-4570 or 426-1138/6681.

WORKSHOP. The Friends of Jung Society presents a workshop series dubbed "Exploring the Self" to enable participants to access their inner selves and appreciate the unconscious on June 17, 18, 25 and 27. It will be held at Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue, Makati City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 892-4610, 815-9911 local 7357 or 850-6814.

TRADE FAIR. Prime Asia Trade Planners & Convention Organizers presents the 10th Edition of the Telecommunication back to back with Korea In Focus and Garden Show. It will be held today until June 29 at Greenhills Shopping Complex.

CALL CARDS. Globe is releasing four sets of limited edition NBA prepaid phone cards until June 30. The four designs feature Yao Ming of Houston Rockets, Allen Iverson of Philadelphia 76ers and Vince Carter of Toronto Raptors. Every time you reload with Globe Prepaid NBA collectible card, you'll receive one raffle number. Raffle date is on June 10.

CHARITY BALL. The Latin Ladies Club of the Philippines recently held its annual charity ball at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Its main beneficiary is the Holy Family Home of Pembo.

FUN ACTIVITIES. Shangri-La Mall presents great events and exciting surprises this rainy month.

Ending today is the Wedding Store's 10th anniversary bridal fair, "Ten: The Bridal Event." It features some of the country's well-known wedding specialists led by Rita Neri.

Patrick Uy presents his first solo show featuring pictures of celebrities. Frederick Peralta showcases his fashion creations in the two-day "Hopelessly Romantic" with the 10-piece String Minstrels orchestra. In "9 Weddings and a Debut," The Wedding Store presents 10 talk-of-the-town events in elaborate tableaus featuring tables settings, invitations, floral arrangements souvenirs and gowns used by the celebrities. On June 14, Trumpets Playshop, presents its own fashion show. Join the exciting on-ground racing activities at the Kidz Station June 9-15. The Japan Foundation Manila Office and the Shangri-La Plaza Corporation will then present the 6th Asian Cartoon Exhibit with the theme, "Images of My Asian Neighbors, on June 17.

June will be a merry month

JUNE is a fun month at the Eastwood City Walk. Families will be treated to food, music and games at the Independence Day-Father's Day Double Celebration June 12-15.

Highlighting the event is a buffet festival of local and international fare. Enjoy good, old Filipino dishes from Mama Rosa at P350 per head, and have a taste of American cooking from Chicago Roadhouse at P375+. Those looking for Spanish flavor will enjoy Twist at P350+ for adults and P220+ for kids, while Celadon offers authentic Asian dishes at P350+.

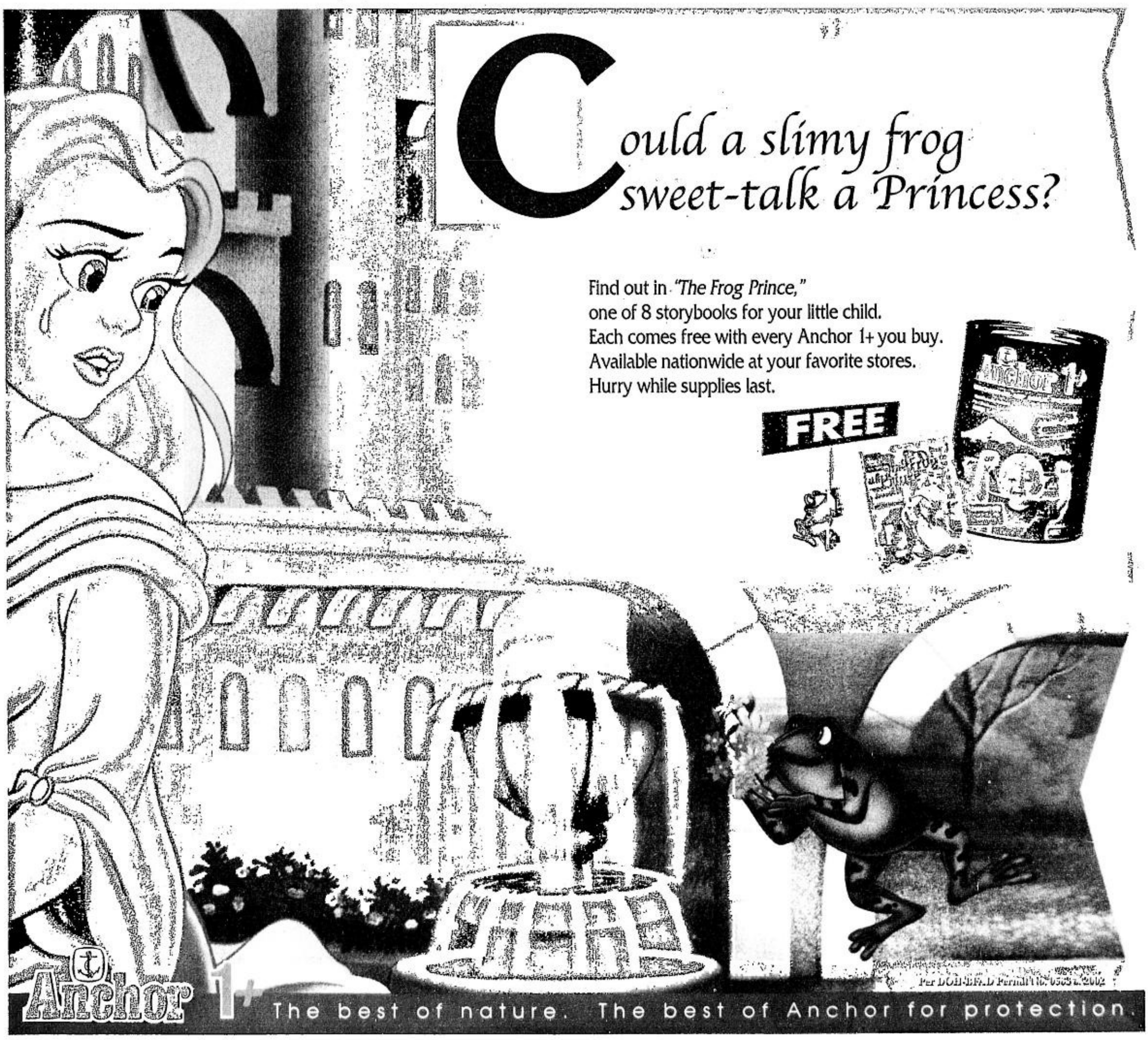
The De la Salle University Pop Orchestra will play starting 7 p.m. June 12 while there will be a grand fireworks display at 9 pm.

On June 15, Father's Day, golf enthusiasts can join the Putting Challenge and Free Play at the mini-driving range at the Central Plaza sponsored by Nike Golf while music fans can watch a live band performance at the Central Plaza at 7 pm.

Regulars can enjoy magic and music at the Fuente Circle for the whole month of June. Performers include Erik Mana and saxophonist Vince Lahorra every Tuesday at 8 p.m. Aliya Parcs performs every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Other outlets at Eastwood are Amoeba Music Recall, Bargo, Blue Onion, Chicago Roadhouse, Kyo by Takayama, Mama Rosa, Montego, Sari-Sari Cafeteria, Seattle's Best Coffee, West Lake, Café Adriatico and Café Havana.

The Eastwood City Walk is located at Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Quezon City. For reservations, call 421-2476 for Mama Rosa; 421-1822 for Twist; 421-1778 for Chicago Roadhouse; and 421-1964 for Celadon.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Piano Duo's show highlights Israel national day celebration

FOREIGN Undersecretary Delia Albert and Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben Abba

ISRAELI Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, whom many have come to appreciate as a fine diplomat and a super person, hosted the 55th anniversary celebration of her country's independence—the last during her stay here. Foreign Undersecretary **Delia Albert** did the honors since Secretary Blas Ople was in the United States.

It was truly special, highlighted by a concert performance of the Silver-Garburg Piano Duo. The two outstanding pianists,

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

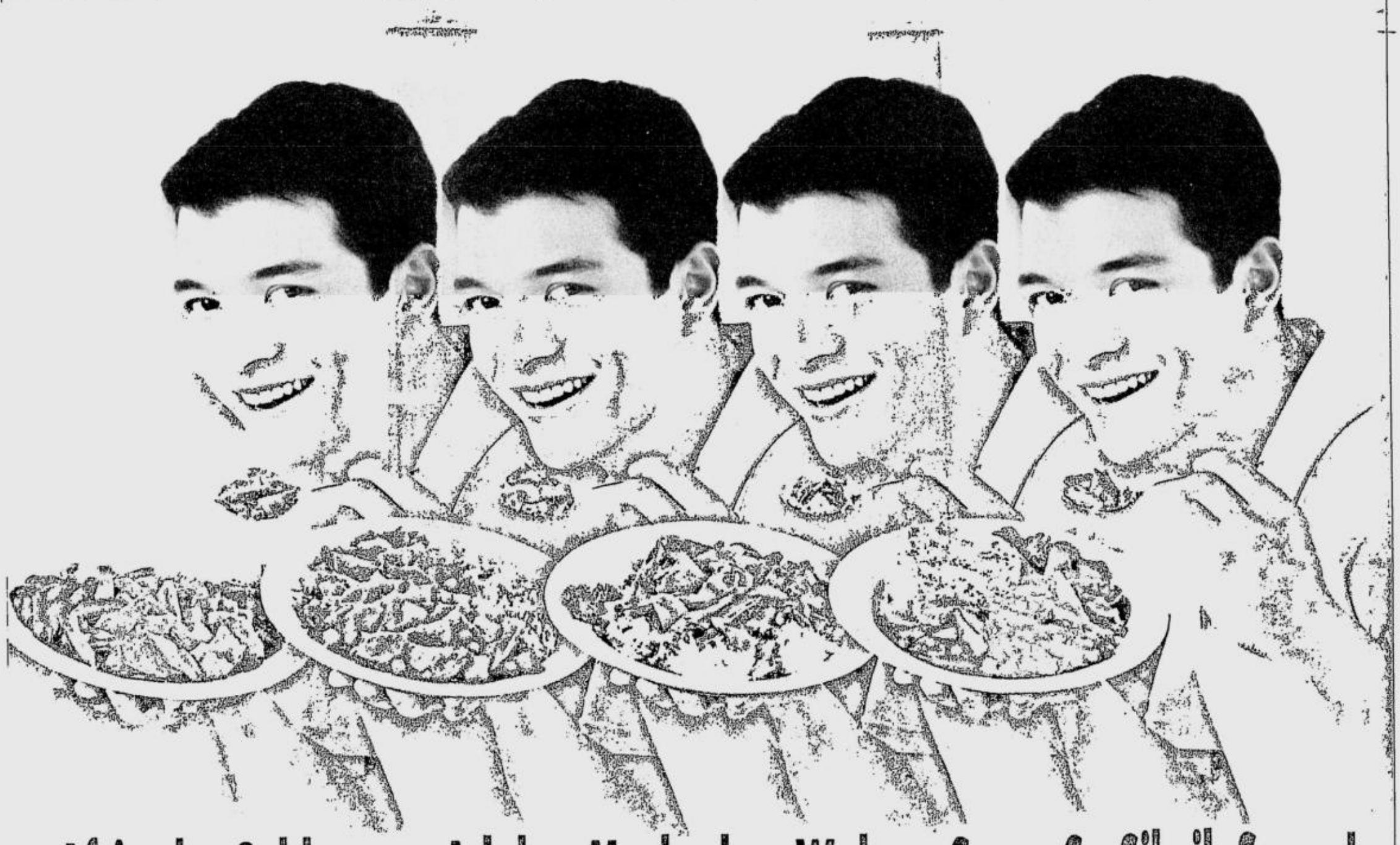
By Amiga

Sivan Silver and **Gil Garburg**, are in their 20s but have already received international awards.

Paz Yuchengco commented that she hoped our own Ivory Mafia quartet would also play Borodin's Polovetsian Dances from "Prince Igor" (also known as "My First and My Last Love Were You," but don't quote me).

The very young and talented Israeli virtu-

PIANO/ F2



PHILIPPINE DAILY IN
Sunday LIFE

Piano Duo's show highlights Israel national day c

EUROPEAN Union Ambassador Jan de Kok, Portuguese Ambassador Joao and Ulrike da Silva, and Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky

From page F1

osos were received with thunderous applause by an appreciative audience composed of members of the diplomatic corps such as Peruvian Ambassador **Jorge Chavez**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, US Ambassador **Francis** and Dr. **Marie Ricciardone**, Indian Ambassador **Nevrekha Sharma**, Chinese Ambassador **Wang Chungui**, former Spanish Ambassador **Delfin** and **Elena Colomé**, here babysitting from Singapore, Ambassador **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia**, Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco** and his son **Rico**, as well as members of the business community and good friends like **Beth Day Romulo**, Central Bank governor **Paeng** and **Marivic Buenaventura**, **Thelma Gana**, **Susan Ople**, Consuls **Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**.

The concert ended after four or five encores, and guests moved into the two outer rooms where buffet tables stretched from here to what seemed like forever. The I Con food and beverage people really ou themselves (if you have a chance, grab tles of the Israeli wine called Barkan at n' Carry—really a treat).

Gifts to guests included those wond plum tomatoes and yellow and red pep from The Farm of Galilee that you can in Silang, Cavite. And, by the way, th producing the orange peppers, too, wit raeli technology.

***

To her credit, Super Mom and Linis da Wonder Woman **Narda Camacho** aged to gather eight of 10 lady ambassa at a *merienda* welcoming Singapore Am sador **Kheng Hua Lim** at the Polo Club.

The Indian ambassador got caught i other government meeting, and the dean of the diplomatic corps, Venezu Ambassador **Milena Santana Ramirez** you doubt she'd be a woman?) was in o her MBA classes.

BRAZILIAN Charge d'Affaire Carlos Cavalho, Ambassador Enrique Syquia and Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Ambassador De Kok and German Ambassador Herbert Jess

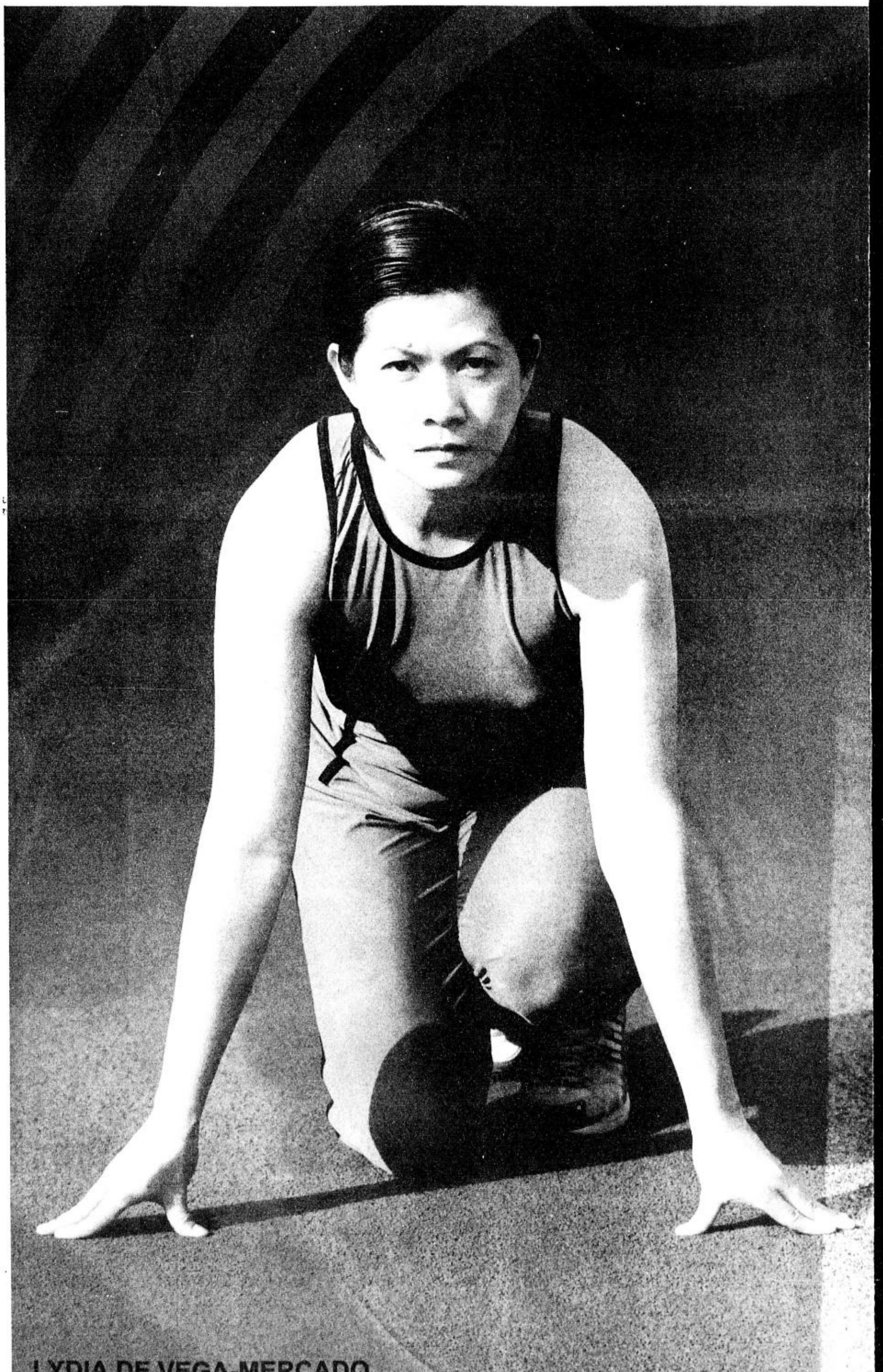
PERUVIAN Ambassador Jorge Chavez and Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam

FORMER Spanish Ambassador Delfin and Elena Colomé

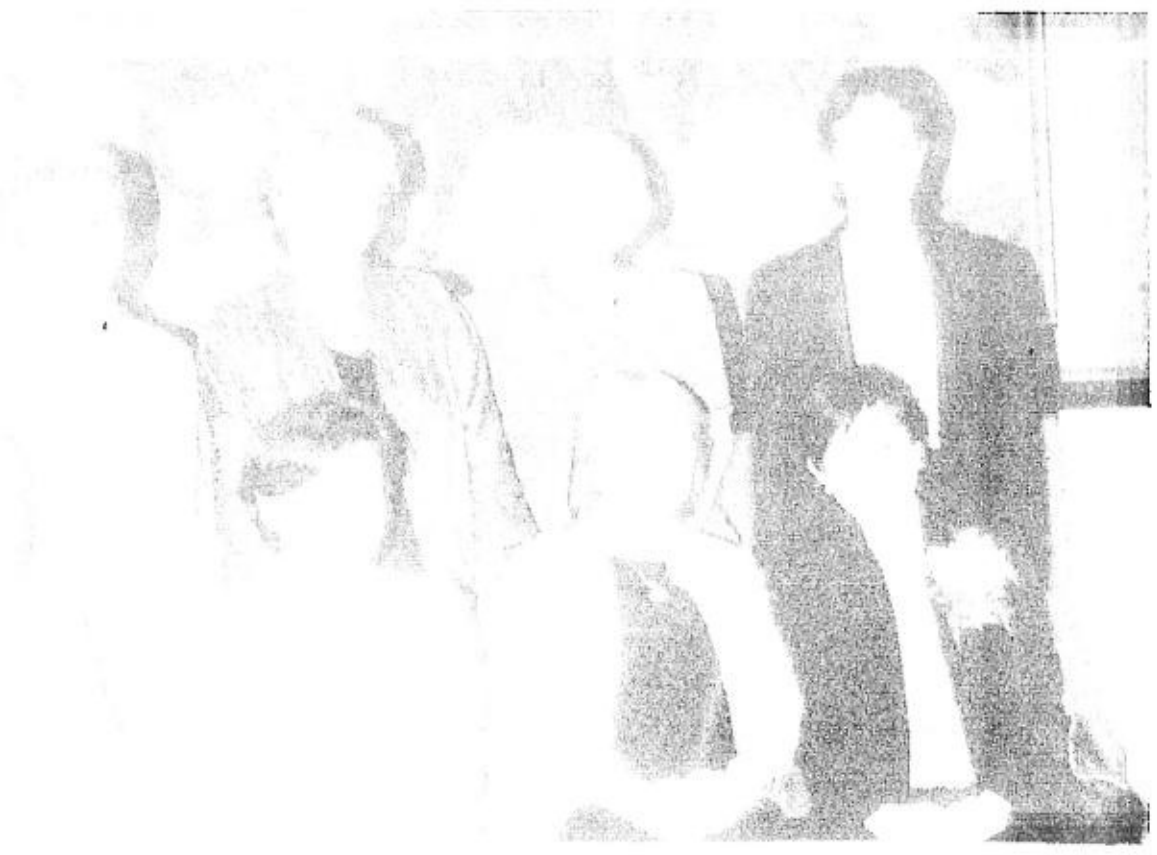
SWISS Ambassador Lise Favre and Lena Hakansson

SWEDISH Ambassador Ulf Hakansson

SUSAN Ople



celebration



(SEATED) Brunei Ambassador Maimunah Elias, Thai Ambassador Busba Bunnag, Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce, Singaporean Ambassador Kheng Hua Lim; (standing) French Ambassador Renee Veyret, Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben Abba

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

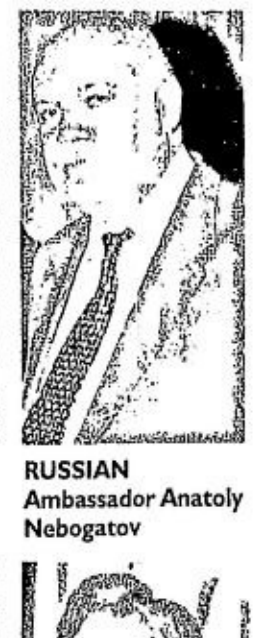
NARDA Camacho and Agnes de Kok

RICO Tantoco and Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco

GRACE Iñige

FOL Kuku

TESSIE Luz

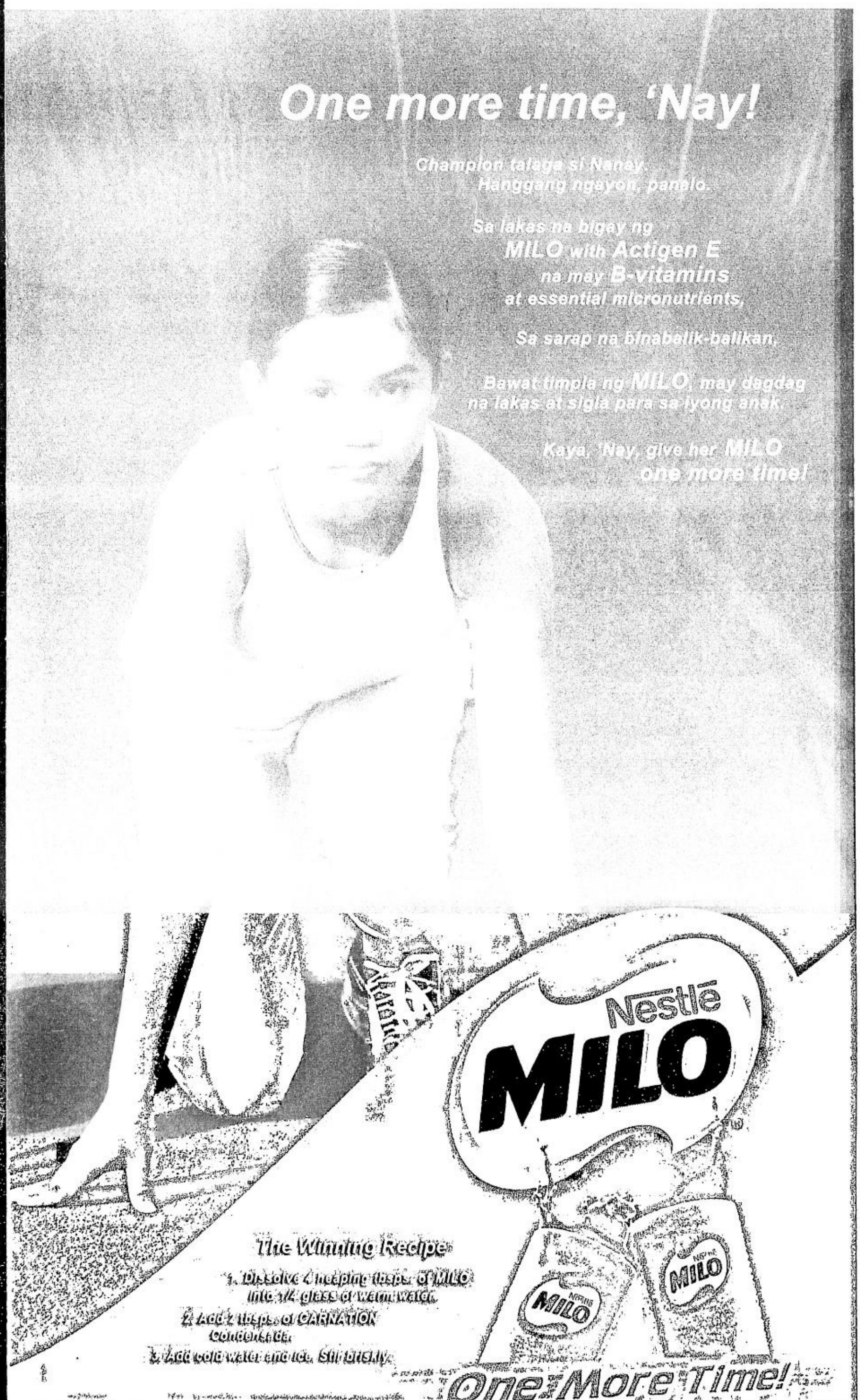


RUSSIAN Ambassador Anatoly Nebogatov

SILVIA Schuff

CAROLYN Manning

MICHELINE Jess and Bink Slavicky



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Nokia 6100	16,000	14,500	12,000	7,000	2,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100 (w/ camera & headset)	19,000	17,000	15,500	10,000	4,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210	17,200	15,200	14,000	8,500	3,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210 (w/ camera & headset)	20,400	18,300	17,000	11,800	6,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	17,900	16,000	14,800	9,200	3,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6800	18,000	16,000	14,700	9,300	3,800	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7250	20,100	18,200	16,800	11,400	5,800	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7650	21,700	19,700	18,400	12,900	7,500	FREE	FREE
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Weddings Magazine

Sunday LIFESTYLE

New wedding venue: Tagaytay's Ville Sommet /G2

What's Inside

Union with the Pope's 'blessing' /G8

Furniture for newlyweds new home /G4

Hotel holds its 1st wedding and debut fair

TRADERS Hotel Manila, in partnership with Behind the Scene, is set to launch its first wedding and debut fair, dubbed "It's Happening at the 'T'" on June 14-15 at the hotel's Embassy Ballroom.

The wedding and debut fair will feature at least 60 of the best national and local wedding service providers, including fashion designers, photographers, videographers and florists.

During the event, there will be live chamber music by The Wedding Symphony, with the special participation of top tenor Nolyn Cabahug; a lecture on decor and table setting by wedding stylists; and a fashion show for two nights by well-known fashion designers.

Participating designers are Gerry Katigbak, Eddie Baddeo, Alex Bitong, Dennis Lustico, Mel Vergel de Dios, JC Buendia, Suzzie Bonaobra, Joel Bautista, Marianne Lazaro, Elizabeth Saddi, Cereña Masu, Cecilio Bertumen, Roel Rivera and Noe Reyes.

Great discounts will be extended to the first 20, soon-to-wed couples or debutantes who will hold their wedding or debut parties in the hotel.

Call 527-9124 to 26.

10 bridal essentials

FILIPINAS Heritage Library (FHL) and WeddingsAtwork.com are hosting "Ten Essentials of the Filipino Bride" by Rita Neri on June 28, 2-4 p.m., at FHL Reading Room.

Neri, president and co-owner of The Wedding Store, will share her expertise in preparing for a wedding—from style/motif, budget, guest list, wedding party, ceremony and reception site, program, food to bridal attire, wedding cake, flowers, music and gifts and giveaways.

A selection of wedding suppliers will be present to offer their products and services. Giveaways, freebies and raffles from suppliers awaits brides and grooms-to-be.

Admission fee of P150 will be collected upon entrance.

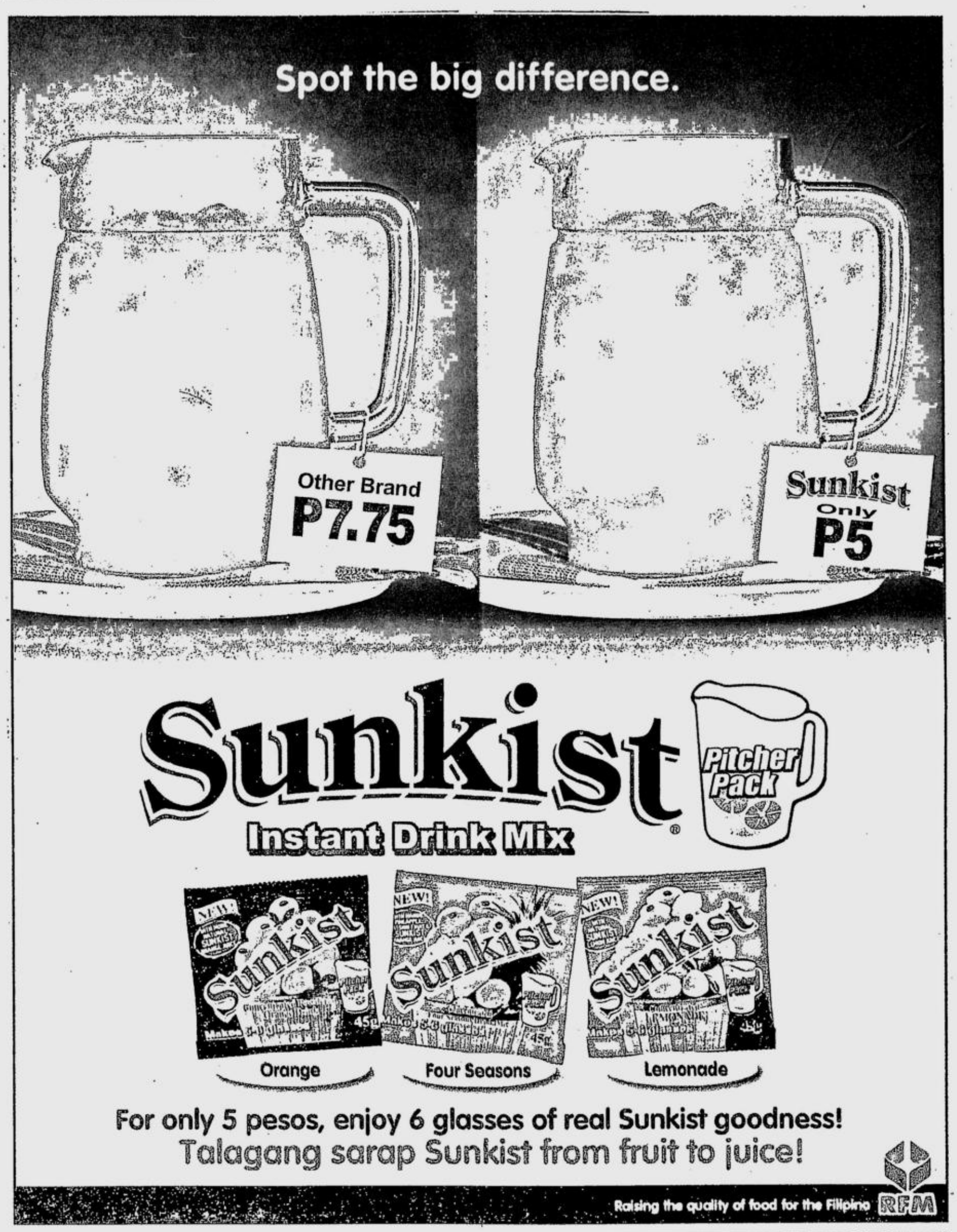
Since year 2000, the FHL has been able to assist a number of brides and grooms-to-be by offering the Courtyard as an alternative wedding reception site.

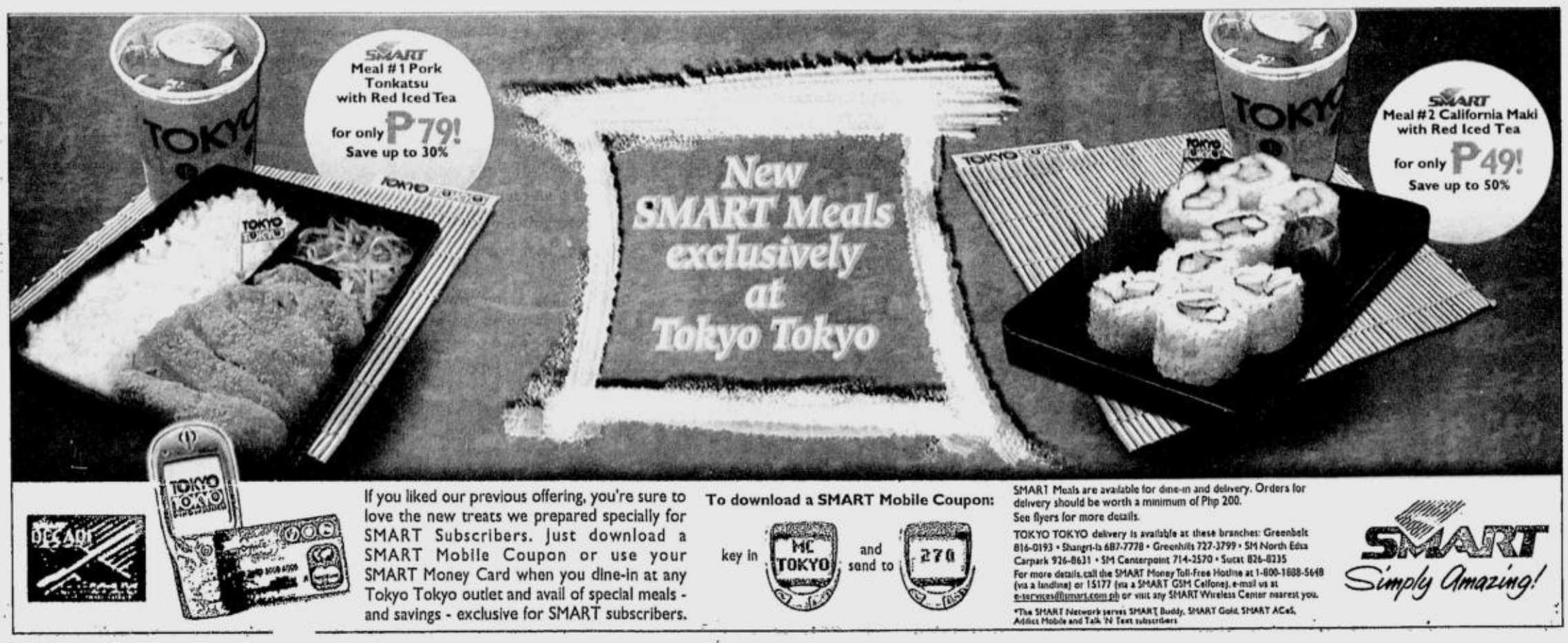
The FHL is located on Makati Avenue across Peninsula Manila.

On the other hand, WeddingsAtWork.com is an online community of brides and grooms.

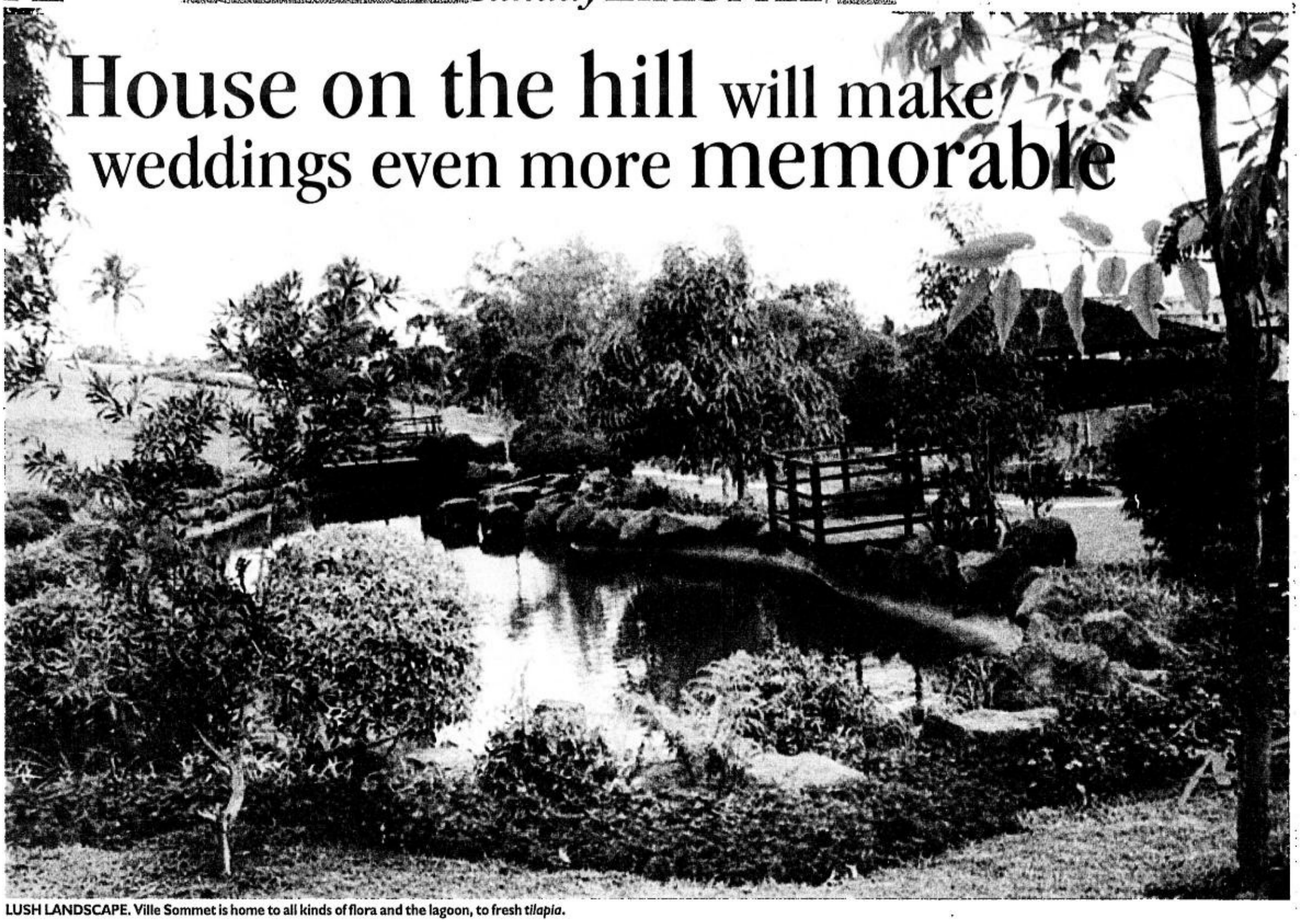
The website features an extensive directory listing of wedding suppliers, a feature on celebrity weddings, interactive tools on wedding planning and a support group for brides and grooms who need help with their wedding preparations.

Call 892-1801 or e-mail events@fillib.org.ph





House on the hill will make weddings even more memorable



LUSH LANDSCAPE. Ville Sommet is home to all kinds of flora and the lagoon, to fresh *tilapia*.

VILLE Sommet is one of Tagaytay's best-kept secrets, ideal for quiet relaxation and private gatherings.

Originally meant to be a family getaway, the "house on the hill" has been transformed into a venue for weddings and intimate parties.

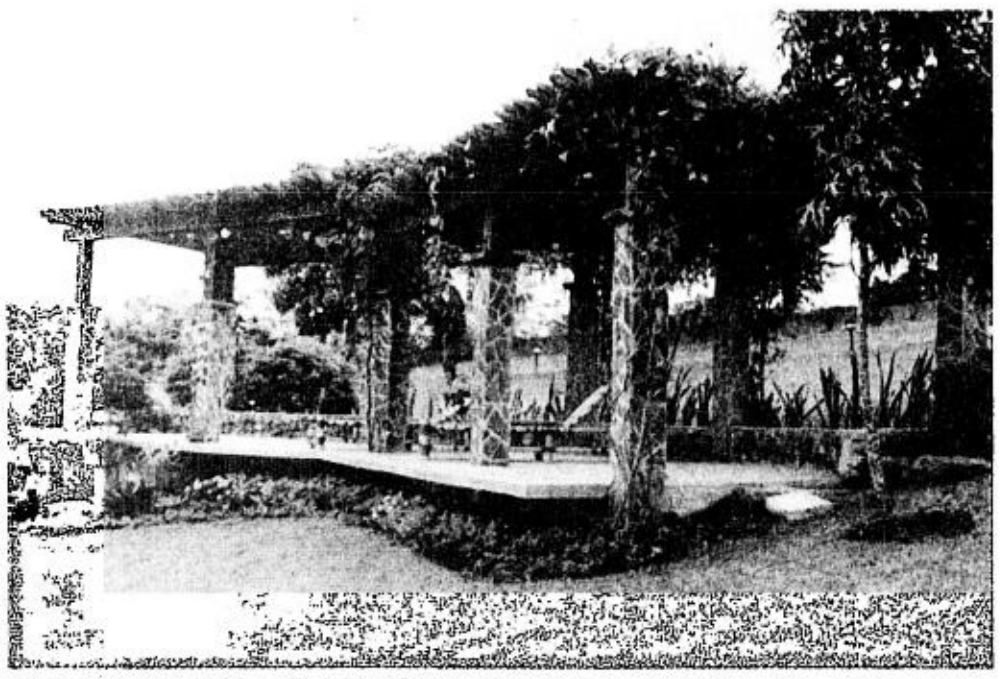
The exclusive Ville Sommet is easily accessible from the main highway going to Tagaytay.

Brides, who choose it as venue for their wedding, can make their entrance from the top of the hill and walk down the aisle from two different spots.

From the left, she will walk down a path filled with flowers as she passes through a well-kept greenhouse, surrounded by colorful and sweet-smelling blooms.

At the end of the path is the pavilion, big enough for a sit-down dinner for 150 guests, or 350 people for cocktails. The ceremonies can be held at the pavilion, which has its own kitchen for the caterer's use, buffet spread and reception tables. More tables can be set up on the lawn.

If the bride chooses the right path, she will walk down a stone walkway, onto a grassy knoll. Her groom could wait for her by a candlelit pond.



GAZEBO covered with trellis is ideal for a garden wedding ceremony.

PAVILION for wedding receptions, with kitchen and loft

Tents can be set up for a ceremony under the trees. Reception tables for as many as 300 guests can be scattered around the gently sloping gardens.

The bride and groom have the option to spend their first night in Ville Sommet's cabana, which has two bedrooms, a kitchen and dining area, and a Jacuzzi on the patio, a sauna and steam room. A masseuse is on call.

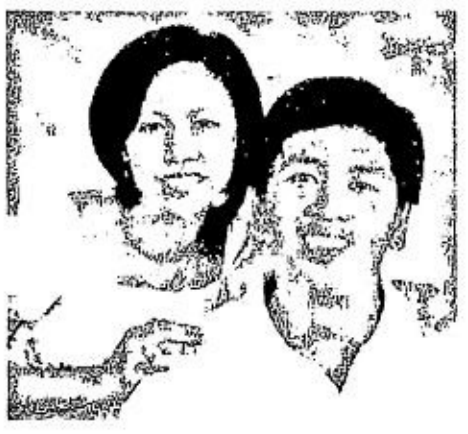
E-mail ville_sommet@asia.com.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

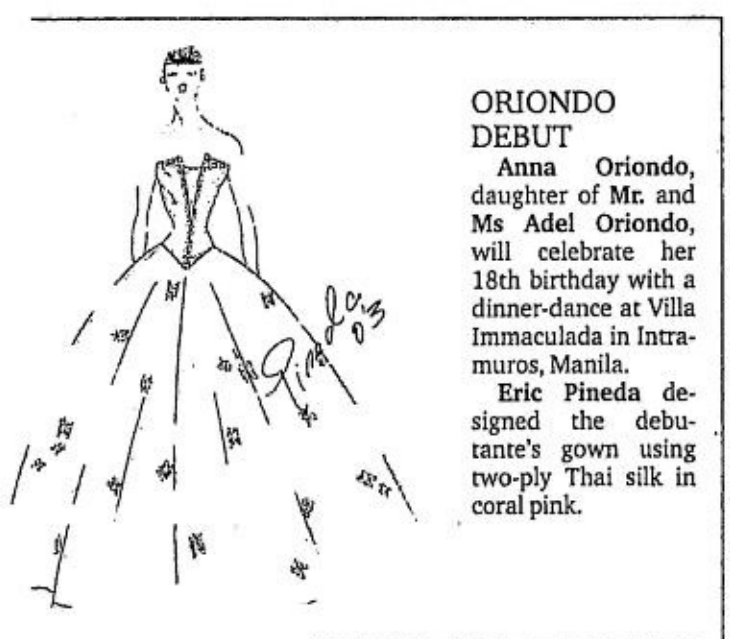
OLIVA-SENEN

Rener Oliva, son of **Rodolfo** and **Luz Oliva**, will marry **Maricon Senen**, daughter of **Conrado** and **Marina Senen**, on June 14 at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Makati City. Reception will follow at the Penthouse, Legato Building, Makati City.



BRIN-CUALES

Rolando Brin, son of **Jesus** and **Norma Brin** will marry **Girly Cuales**, daughter of **Gilbert** and **Antipolo Cuales**, on June 14, at the Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu Parish Church, San Mateo, Rizal. Reception will follow at CJ Gomez Resort San Jose, Montalban Rizal.



ORIONDO DEBUT

Anna Oriondo, daughter of **Mr.** and **Ms Adel Oriondo**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance at Villa Immaculada in Intramuros, Manila.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using two-ply Thai silk in coral pink.

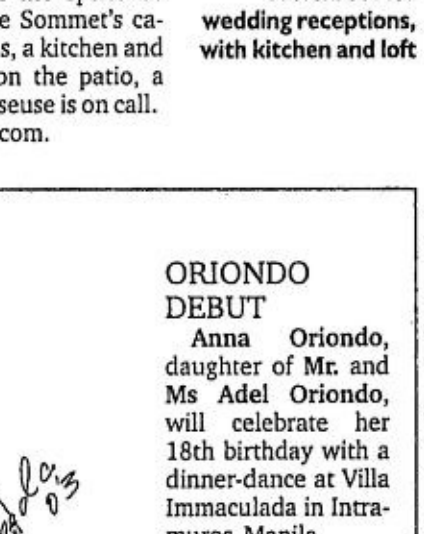
SAGPANG-FUENTES

Grecel Sagpang, son of the late **Gregorio** and **Cecilia Sagpang**, will exchange marriage vows with **Ma. Angelina Espe Fuentes**, daughter of Judge **Renato** and **Trifuna Espe Fuentes**, on June 10 at Sta. Ana Parish Church, Davao City. Reception will follow at Waterfront Hotel.

Juliet Pamintuan designed the bridal gown.

DIZON-JAYME

Darwin Dizon, son of **Mr.** and **Ms Herminio Dizon**, will exchange marital vows with **Katherine Jayme**, daughter of **Mr.** and **Ms Bonifacio Jayme**, today at the St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park. Reception will follow at Manila Manor Hotel, Malate.



CAYUBIT-APUSEN

Limwell Cayubit and **Natty Apusen**, both from the credit and collection department of the Inquirer, will tie the knot on June 18 at Sanctuario De San Jose in Greenhills. Limwell is the son of **Rolando** and **Carmencita Cayubit** of Sta. Mesa, Manila. Natty is the daughter of **Jose** and **Lucila Apusen** of Antipolo City.

Our Lady of Mediatrix Shrine in San Mateo attracts pilgrims

A BEAUTIFUL chapel rises above Monterey Hills in San Mateo, Rizal, which is attracting pilgrims and devotees of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace. A life-size statue of the Virgin sculptured by Amado Castrillo, brother of Ed Castrillo, welcomes people from her place on top of the dome of the chapel.

How this chapel came about is a long story that began with a dream of Fr. Pedro Balagtas, a native of San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, on Feb. 27, 1995. It was in San Antonio where the Virgin Mary appeared to him and told him to build a shrine that would be dedicated to her title Mediatrix of All Grace.

The Virgin Mary told Father Balagtas: "What the Krisovoc Cross is to Medjugorje, the Mediatrix Mountain will be to the Philippines and will herald the triumph of My Immaculate Heart."

Training ground

Previously in 1989 after suffering from a serious illness, Father Balagtas was inspired to build a formation center that would be a training ground for Mama Mary's Army, young people who would wish to take up seminary studies; laymen and laywomen who desire to take up catechetical formation; lay catechists and retired priests. So with Rufino Policarpio Jr.; Sally Lawson who is now the group's president; Sr. Maritess de Jesus; Sr. Lina Fernandez Litton; Bro. Eduardo Litton and S.K. Paquito Azuelo; and Fr. Balagtas who formed the Order of Melchizedek Foundation Inc.

The foundation acquired a sprawling 3-hectare mountaintop lot overlooking San Mateo, Marikina and Antipolo and situated near the Monterey Subdivision in Nangka, Marikina. But it would take another six years before the property could be completely bought and acquired and the corner stone of the chapel laid on Sept. 8, 1995. Sally Lawson and Julie Ong bought the property with their own money.

Lawson is a self-made businesswoman whose motto is "Give back to the Lord what He has blessed you with." She gave it all back and more by not only buying the property and seeing to it that the chapel would be built. Father Balagtas, she remembers, would go to her office and talk to her about his vision for the chapel and the buildings that would be built around it. She took it upon herself to fulfill this dream. An incomplete chapel was blessed by Bishop Nestor Carino on March 21, 1999, with the bust sculpture of the Mediatrix of All Grace done by young sculptor Juan Sajid Imao enthroned at the altar.

Three years later, on Dec. 8, 2002, a complete chapel was blessed by Bishop Teodoro Bacani and the life-size image of Our Lady enthroned at the dome of the chapel.

Masses are being celebrated, weddings and baptisms held and even a complete Holy Week schedule was followed. The chapel falls under the Quasi Parish of the Sto. Niño and belongs to the Diocese of Antipolo.

Nieves Lauraya, a former nun, takes care of the chapel with the Associates of St. Catherine of Siena. She says retreats can be held there. A voluntary donation is appreciated. Please call her at tel. 889-3907. Thanks to Dr. Remy Sazon for making me aware that a pilgrim site in San Mateo, Rizal, has been built. What the Virgin Mary told Father Balagtas in a dream has been fulfilled.

'Lourdes' in the Philippines

Historical records as translated from Spanish to English by Antonio Escobar Gonzales, husband of Sally Gonzalez, show that the Pansipit River in Taal, Batangas, where the image of Our Lady of Caysasay was found, was a place for healing. People with ailments would bathe there believing that they would be healed.

In 1603, a fisherman named Juan Maningkad found the small image of the Virgin in the river. Much later, when the chapel of the Virgin was being made in barrio Labac in a rocky area, people noticed that the water there was salty. So they asked the Virgin to do something. By some miracle, water sprang from the rock and sweet water flowed from it.

To this day, water flows and people come to gather it in bottles. Believed to be miraculous when drunk, it is like the one in Lourdes in France.

When Our Lady of Caysasay left Greenbelt Chapel after the 6 p.m. Mass on May 31, the people lined up to touch her; men and women patiently waited to say goodbye.

Waiting at the Makati Medical Center was Irene Pangidian, 79, who was suffering from emphysema. At least P1.3 million have been spent for her medication. So Gloria Santos, her niece, prayed the novena for her. The devotion to Our Lady of Caysasay was introduced to her by Nene Garces. On the third day of the novena at Greenbelt Chapel, Pangidian was transferred from ICU to a private room when she felt better. She is well now, so she is preparing to leave for the United States in July.

On the evening of May 31, Irene waited for the Virgin to be brought to Room 603 so she could say "Thank you" to her. From her room, the Virgin was brought to the chapel where people were waiting for her, so they could pray the 2,000 Rosaries in her honor.

Nene Garces arranged that the Virgin would stay for three more days, so mobile patients could go to the chapel to pray to her.

At the door of the chapel was an old man in a wheelchair who shouted upon seeing the Virgin, "*O Mahal na Birhen ng* Caysasay, *hinintay kita nang matagal na!*" He stood up and reached out to touch her.

For those who want to see the Virgin, you can attend the 8 a.m. pilgrimage every Saturday in Barrio Labac, Taal, Batangas. Please text Fr. Carlo Ilaga at (0917) 450-5216. Those who want to send petitions can mail to Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation at Suite 1510, Antel Seaview, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Adam's Express Travel is organizing a pilgrimage to Taal where the Shrine of our Lady of Caysasay is found, and to the Carmel Church,

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

where Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace is enthroned. The trip will also include Balayan, Batangas which will mark the feast of St. John the Baptist with a *parada ng lechon*. Mayor Emmanuel Fronda of Balayan and lawyer Ricardo Diaz, president of Hermandad Batangas are inviting all to come and enjoy the revelry. Departure from Manila is June 24. Call 521-1698.

Giving hope

Suddenly, there is hope as more and more people are visiting Our Lady of Hope Parish behind SM City in Bagong Pag-asa, QC. Inngo Tolentino and I were there during the fiesta on May 25. The church was full during every Mass.

According to Inggo, there was a lady whose son was wrongly accused of killing his own brother by the wife of the brother. Inggo told her to pray to Our Lady of Hope and much later, the lady was told that her son would be set free.

Evelyn "Matutina" Guerrero, the famous comedian, has found herself the head of the committee promoting the devotion to Our Lady of Hope. Novenas have to be printed and there is need to pay a radio slot in Radio Veritas that would read the novena and talk about Our Lady of Hope. Those who wish to help in this endeavor can text her at (0918)920-5412.

Other devotees to the Virgin are the couple Lorna and Mario Bartolome whose family opened the now famous Little Quiapo restaurant in the '60s. Lorna is into catering. Those who wish to have *estampitas* of Our Lady of Hope can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ordination in Ramos, Tarlac

The Servants of the Risen Christ will hold an ordination of two deacons on June 12 at 9 a.m., at the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish in Ramos, Tarlac. Rev. Joseph Albert and Rev. Ignatius Arsenius will be ordained by Bishop Florentino Cinense.

St. Andrew church needs help

The parish convent of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in San Andres, Catanduanes, needs to be reconstructed as it is falling apart. Fr. Edison Bernardo, parish priest, is asking for help to pursue this project which will cost P5 million.

Please leave a message at the chancery in Virac at (052) 811-1408. Thank you for your kindness.

Free seminar

Mentor Consultants Canada Training Center is giving a free orientation seminar every Saturday at 2 p.m., with job placement assistance for caregivers, nursing aides, household administrators and personal support workers.

Call 810-4026 or visit the office at PH5 Jackson Building on 926 Arnaiz Ave., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Ask for lawyer Mercy Solanoy, who's a devotee of St. Joseph. On March 19, she fed a lot of people following a tradition of feeding people on St. Joseph's Day.

Water sprang from the rock and sweet water flowed from it

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TRIBECA dining table of cherry wood in black, woven abaca dining chairs, Century carved mirror of mahogany. For the bride: Japanese-inspired ice blue *piña* silk gown with detachable cape and beaded brocade obi sash.

CUBA coffee table decked out with lighted scented candles, chaise lounge of woven abaca and banana bark, Cuba mirror made of laminated resin.

WOVEN *abaca* loveseat and lounge chair finished in black with aluminum legs, bean-shaped coffee table and reproduction of Chinese antique wedding cabinet in black and accented with gold, Rachy Cuna painting. On the bride: silk strapless gown with abaca stripe inserts and beading with detachable train.

Furniture for newlyweds' first home

BORDERS, Manila's lifestyle furniture and accessory store, unveils an extensive collection of home furnishings for newlyweds and their first home.

The pieces successfully blend traditional elements with fresh, modern sensibilities. Whatever the bride fancies—traditional, modern, rustic or an eclectic mix, a bride will most likely find something for her new home browsing around Borders' showroom.

From living room, bedroom and dining-room pieces, to unique little accents that complement any style, Borders is likely to have what a bride needs to make her house a home.

Borders has special bridal packages for brides who register in the store. Call 813-0112 or visit the showroom at the ground floor G.E. Philippines Bldg., 2291 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. The store is open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

BRIDAL COUTURE:
KATRINA GOULBOURN AT SILK COCOON
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
BONG COO

YEVA living room set of woven seagrass accent chair with matching ottoman, white woven plastic sofa and lounge chair designed by Clayton Tugonan, Rachy Cuna painting. On the bride: antique beige abaca silk top with light beading and matching raw pleated skirt.

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Union with the Pope's 'blessing'

From page G8

WITH THE BRIDE'S family: only sibling Rhea, grandma Adelina Coria, and parents Elenita Coria and lawyer Jose Tolentino

tails were served at the gallery of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, while the couple had their photographs taken by Jo Avila at the Luneta and the ruins of San Agustin.

With the arrival of the newlyweds at the Inter-Con at 7 p.m., the dinner reception at the Grand Ballroom began. The wedding party was treated to beautiful music by tenor Austin Caseñas and the string quartet of Bernie Pasamba over dinner.

A light-hearted toast on CD-ROM by Ryan Bonilla, the best man and only sibling of the groom who is currently based in the United States, was played. It was followed by an emotional message from Rhea Tolentino, the maid of honor and also the only sibling of the bride.

The parents of the newlyweds took turns giving cheerful or moving speeches and advice on marriage to the newlyweds. But the most heartwarming portion was the father-daughter dance against a backdrop of photos of the bride as she was growing up.

Overall coordinator of the wedding was by Weddings by Victoria.

WITH THE GROOM'S parents Rodrigo and Lydia Bonilla

Milestones

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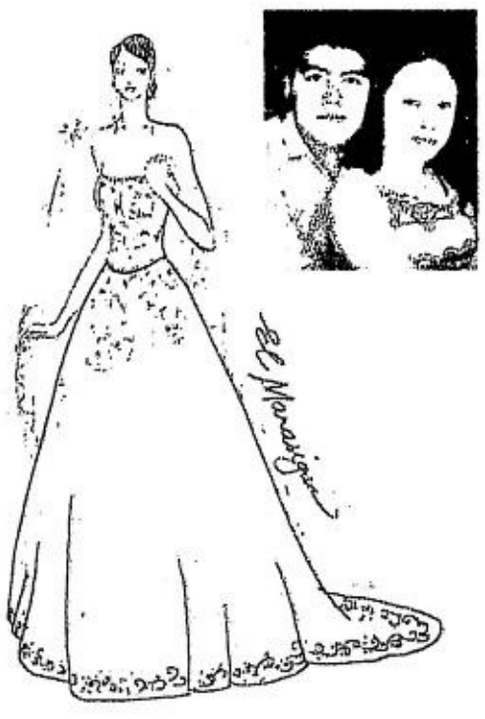
VICENCIO DEBUT

Joan Antoniette Vicencio, daughter of **Nilo** and **Bing Vicencio**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a *cotillion de honor* on June 14 at the Coral Ballroom of Manila Pavilion.

She's an incoming freshman at St. Scholastica's College.

PANOPIO-ALCANTARA

Melo Panopio, son of **Clemente** and **Belen Panopio**, married **Nancy Alcantara**, daughter of **Maximo** and **Angelita Alcantara**, at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, on May 24.



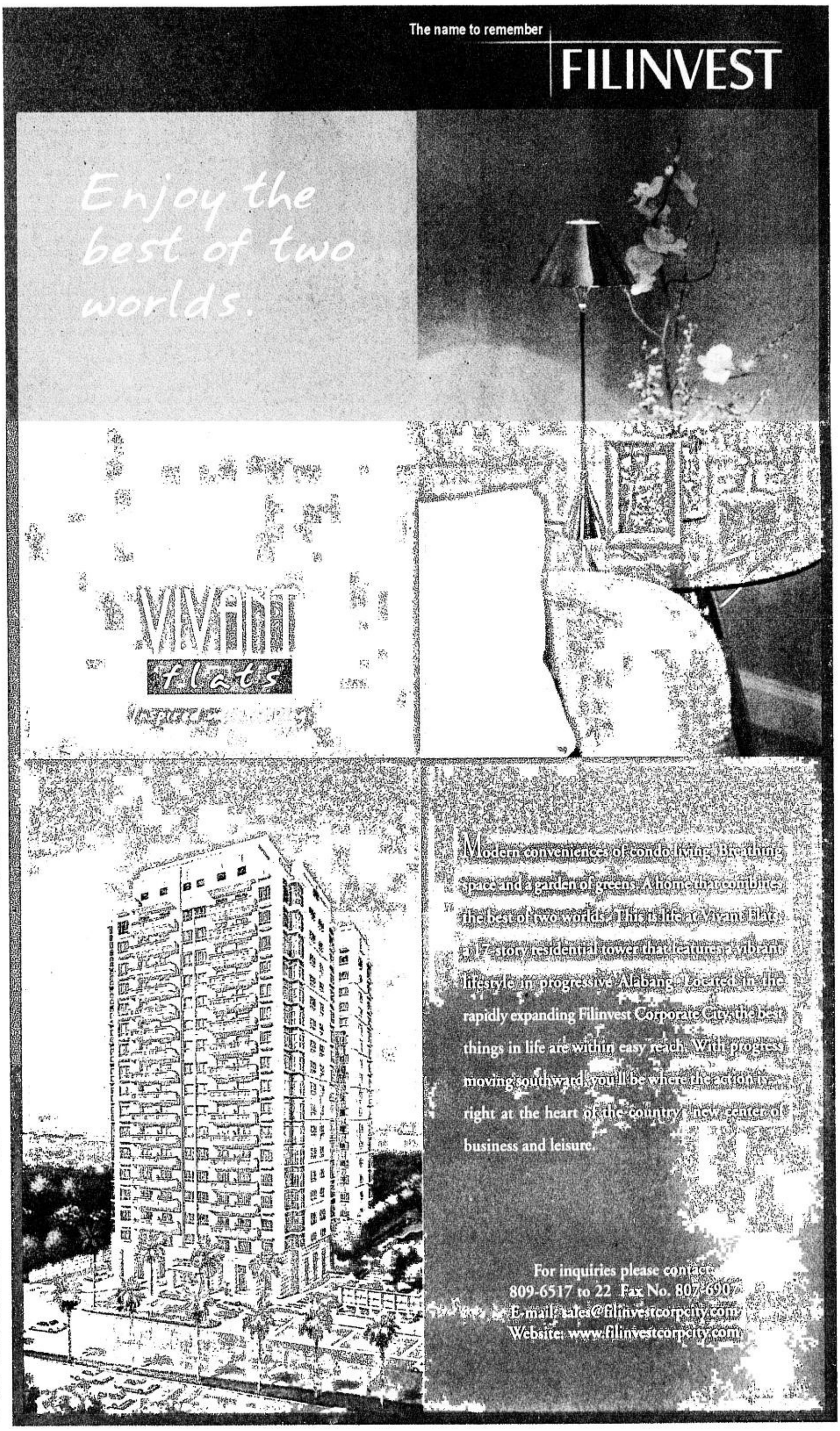
CELIS-DE LEON

Hartwell Celis, son of **Mario** and **Ignacia Celis**, tied the knot with **Mary Cecile de Leon**, daughter of **Marcelo** and **Araceli de Leon**, on June 1 at San Isidro Labrador Parish Church.

MAGALIT DEBUT

Shanta Carleen B. Magalit will mark her debut on June 29 at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. The evening's theme is "Hollywood Night." The debutante is the daughter of **Abel Jr.** and **Belen Magalit.**

She is a second year BS Biology student at the University of Santo Tomas.

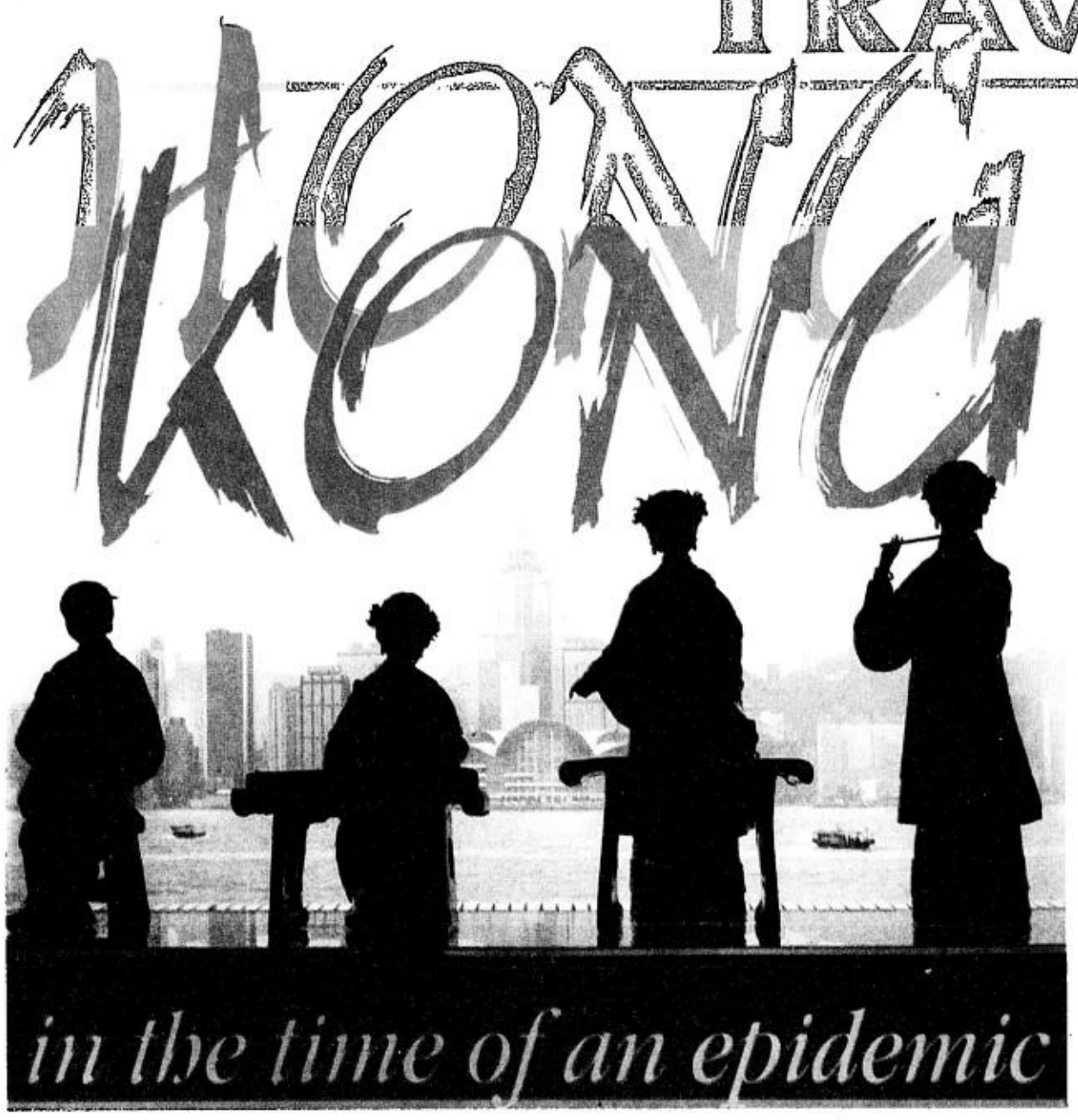


Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

TRAVEL

HONG KONG

in the time of an epidemic



HEALTH food in the time of SARS in the graphic jungle of Kowloon: Not only is it vegetarian, it is also organic.

Text and photos by Lynett A. Villariba

TIME in Hong Kong has been divided into two: Before and After SARS. Although it wasn't until March 12, after four persons died and several others were infected in four cities that the World Health Organization raised the global alert on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the virus had been "incubating" in Hong Kong since Feb. 21, surreptitiously making the tourist haven its launching point to the world.

TODAY'S Hong Kong Harbor is seen through ancient culture at the Museum of Art in Kowloon.

PHOTOS TAKEN WITH FUJIFILM'S DIGITAL F402 THAT COST MUCH LESS IN MONGKOK THAN IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

After sealing my lips in quarantine and making sure that the darn thing did not sneak home with me, now it can be told: We just had to be in that densely populated city at the same time that the virulent virus was setting loose. In my anxious moments, I thought serendipity meant being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The United States-based Society of News Design had marked a most auspicious date and venue for its first infographic summit in Asia: March 4-7 in Hong Kong. It was enough reason to go.

What kept local travelers at home and, to some degree, safe, were the odds against a Hong Kong trip in March. Travel money in Philippine pesos was falling against the dollar and could not get you far. The Hong Kong winter made it an off-tourist season for those bathed in tropical sunshine and looking for big shopping bargains. Then there loomed in the travel horizon the imminent invasion of Iraq.

With the payment of a new "war insurance" that covered not your life (too cheap at US$4) but airline cancellations, air travel had never been this perilous. The enemy was deadlier yet unseen. At least in war and terror, borders are defined and lines are drawn. It is much easier to size up an enemy of your own species than to deal with a micro adversary.

Breaking out

We checked into our hotel in Kowloon on March 4 oblivious of a two-week-old outbreak taking place elsewhere in the peninsula. That day, at the Kwong Wah Hospital, a medical professor lost his battle against the atypical pneumonia virus that he acknowledged he carried from Guangdong, China.

By that time, the yet unidentified virus had migrated to other bodies and other shores out of the Metropole Hotel in Kowloon, where the infected professor identified as Patient Zero stayed from Feb. 21 until he checked into the hospital the next day. The Metropole lay within the bargain shopping district of Mongkok, a good five minutes by train from where foreign tourists converge in Tsim Sha Tsui district in Kowloon.

From the hotel, the killer virus left Hong Kong in five infected travelers and migrated to Canada, Vietnam and Singapore, but stayed on in local residents who had contact with Patient Zero to inflict the severest damage outside of mainland China.

On the evening of Day One for newspaper managers, editors, writers and designers from Denmark to India to Australia and Japan, they who process and present the news gathered for cocktails at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile unaware of news breaking right under their noses. The talk was full of irony, centered as it was on newsroom preparations for the coverage of an anticipated event with writers building up their war thesauruses and graphic designers gathering war clip arts.

That night, we learned from the TV evening news about the bombing outside the Davao international airport. Everyone must have remarked that the body counting had begun.

Shopping bug

Yet there was another war taking place on another front, far more dangerous and out of control. SARS was a slippery bug, spreading at varying rates in different areas, sometimes aided by the environment. In a Hong Kong hospital, virus-laden respiratory droplets spread through a nebulizer that a patient was being treated with, infecting a whole ward.

The weather in Hong Kong in the time of SARS was so damp and cold that we had to shop for additional warmers and umbrellas on the first day. We walked three blocks from our hotel to the workshop venue under morning showers and below-20 temperature.

That was when we scouted for the best buy in pashmina shawls. The shawl could have been made in China for HK$100 or designed in Italy for HK$1,000, but no one seemed to mind as long as one believed the story that merchants told:

Pashmina is the Persian word for wool. It used to be known in the West as cashmere, which is an old spelling for Kashmir. The soft, fine wool comes from the undercoat of the Himalayan mountain goat raised by semi-nomadic goatherds in the Tibetan plateau. The fact that an animal yields only three to eight ounces of fiber per year makes it an expensive commodity.

Woven into a shawl or a scarf, the pashmina is so light and fine that a whole shawl can pass through a ring with nary a resulting crease. And the highly absorbent fabric makes it a designer's favorite because it is easy to dye in various colors or combine with silk for that added sheen.

In the otherwise drab Hong Kong winter, bright pashminas tucked around the neck inside leather jackets and raincoats became a source of warmth, comfort and color. Worn close to the face, the pashmina becomes so personal its wearers believe it can ward off not just the cold but negative vibrations (not excluding a deadly disease) as well.

Close encounters

The closest encounter we had with a probable SARS carrier was when we haggled for a good buy at the electronics store on Nathan Road where sales natives hold you hostage until you make a purchase. If they speak Cantonese (as in Guangdong), you have to learn to duck the spew of respiratory droplets because a Cantonese does not converse but shouts syllables into your face.

After winding up our official business, we decided that it was time to explore Hong Kong up close. Meaning, we were going to get the bargain that the tourist district of Tsim Sha Tsui denied us. For HK$5, we let the MTR subway transport us to the bargain district of Mongkok. It was shoulder to shoulder for some five minutes with the commuting crowd. Fortunately, no one was coughing or shouting in Cantonese.

Out on Argyle Street, tourists only had to find that four-letter word S-A-L-E for them to know that they had come to the right place. On a perpendicular road, we spotted the object of our shopping hunt: the row of computers, cameras and cell phones. The prices were almost half the best that the Tsim Sha Tsui merchants could muster. Tourists just had to be sure to go to the bigger electronics shops, like Broadway store where sales clerks speak in English and can ensure warranties for their products.

Ten blocks down Argyle stands what was to be a site of interest, the Metropole Hotel. But just four blocks away, at the end of what is known as the electronics shopping row, was the hospital where the first SARS death and hospital outbreak in Hong Kong occurred. It was not evident if the SAS virus traveled among the crowd of Mongkok, but the shoppers' adrenalin level was so high it probably boosted their immune defense against the virus.

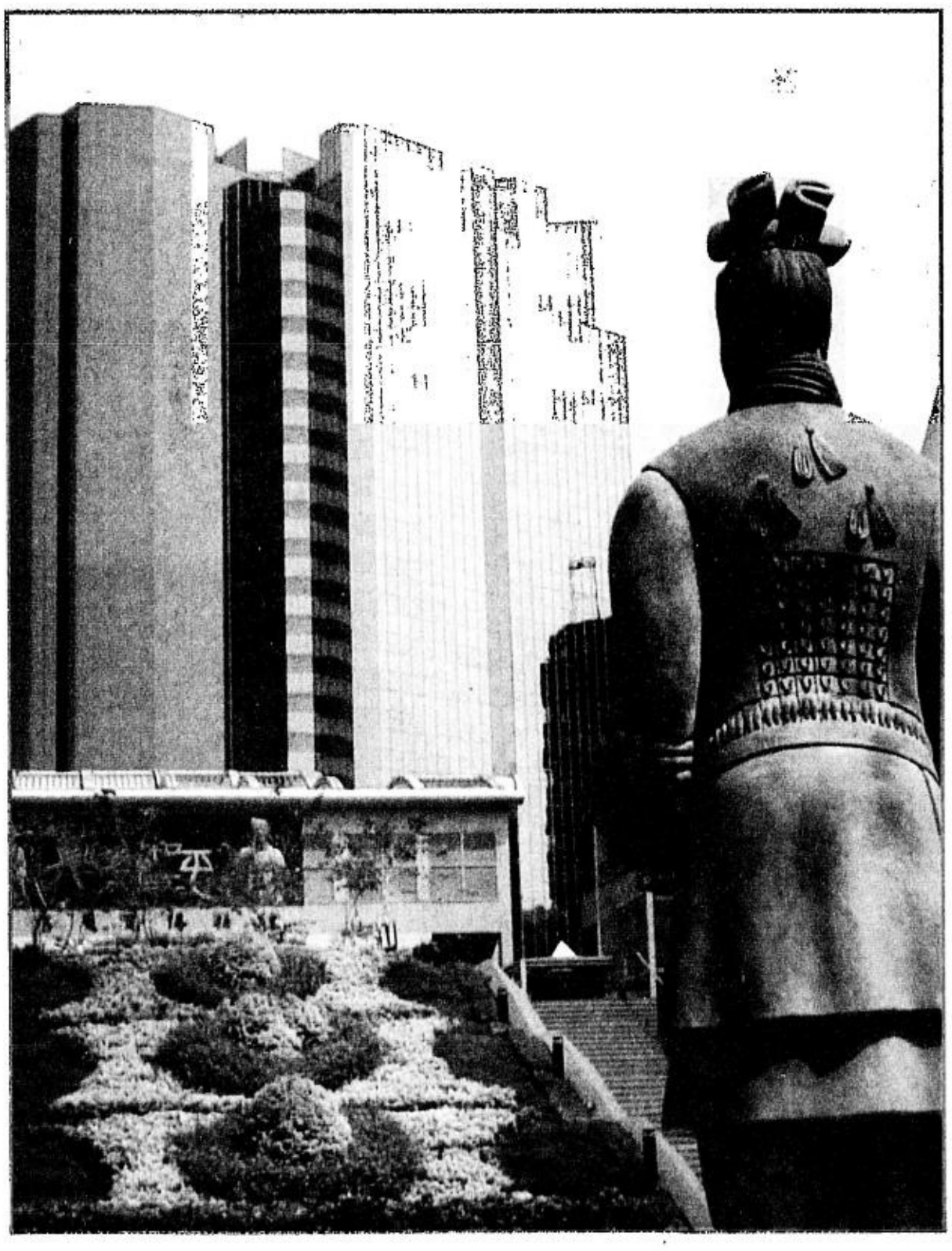
That Sunday, with the March 9 newspapers headlining a report on the Philippine government protesting the cut in Filipino workers' wages, we set out for Hong Kong Central via the Star Ferry to see how our *kababayan* were taking the issues.

It was not to be their typical day off. Several groups had organized a rally at the Statue Square along Harcourt Road that drew about 30,000 Filipino workers in the territory. They were asking the Philippine government not to make matters worse for them because most of them wanted to comply with the wage cut than lose their jobs. One would die of SARS weeks later in the pursuit of honest wages.

Probabilities

This is one traveler's tale laden with infinite probabilities. What probably kept our trip safe was that we had less contact with people and more interaction on the quantum level in the quiet comforts of Hong Kong's museums and garden parks. The probabilities remain because science has yet to define fully the how, why and cure of the deadly epidemic. What is definite is that SARS is redefining air travel and shifting health paradigms (for example, that through it all, the only defense we have is our immune system).

Here at home the rains have come, lowering temperatures and, hopefully, not also our defenses. The environment has shifted from sunny and dry to damp and cold—the same conditions prevailing in Hong Kong at the beginning of the epidemic.



GIANT replica of China's terracota warrior stands guard over modern Hong Kong's Science and History Park along Chatham Road in Tsim Sha Tsui.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Back on track

WITH SINGAPORE off the World Health Organization's list of SARS-affected countries, the tourism industry of the island-state is expected to get back on track.

"We welcome all visitors back to Singapore," Lim Neo Chian, deputy chair and chief executive of the Singapore Tourism Board, said in a statement. "Travelers will have the added comfort of knowing that even with [the state off the WHO list], Singapore's SARS precautionary measures and actions remain firmly in place, and vigilance in containing SARS remains our first priority."

Lim also said the move by the WHO would "help put Singapore back on another important list—the list of key destinations around the world for business travelers, tourists and visitors."

New economy class

ANYTIME before July 15, you can travel from Manila, Cebu or Davao to Singapore and major destinations like Bali, Bangkok, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, as well as San Francisco and Los Angeles in the United States, on prices starting from US$199 per person.

The special value fares are available for Singapore Airlines' new economy class. There are also special offers for first class and Raffles class for a very limited period.

Those who book online will earn a 50-percent bonus on Krisflyer miles. Check with your travel agent or SIA in Manila at 751-5151 or 810-4960 locals 4005 to 4006, in Cebu at 032-2326211, or in Davao at 082-22356080. Inquiries on special Silkair offers will also be entertained.

For armchair travelers

THE SECRETS of ancient legends and modern-day archaeology will be told in "Mysteries of Sacred Sites" on June 22, 8-9 p.m. on Discovery Travel and Adventure Channel, with a rerun at 8 a.m. the following day.

The show explores the legacies of Stonehenge, the Great Pyramids, Machu Picchu, and Easter Island, which have endured the ravages of time and remain as some of the most intriguing mysteries known to humans.

Armchair travelers are expected to gain insight on why these sites continue to draw people in search of information and inspiration.

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STARTXT Gets You the Stars!

And as ever, you get INSTANT ACCESS to the all-new content of the relaunched SMART Buddy wireless services. Text your favorite celebrity through STARTXT, cruise the hottest logos and ringtones when you choose among the Pick of the Week.

Make new friends on BuddyChat, there's a whole wide world of pals out there to share good times with. With BuddyChat you ca. make that easy connection today!

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And, as always, the best jokes will be available to lighten up your day thru SMART Buddy. What's more, SMART Buddy's Horoscope updates have always been a fun guide for the day; whatever your sign is, your fortunes are written in the stars and available to you right on SMART Buddy.

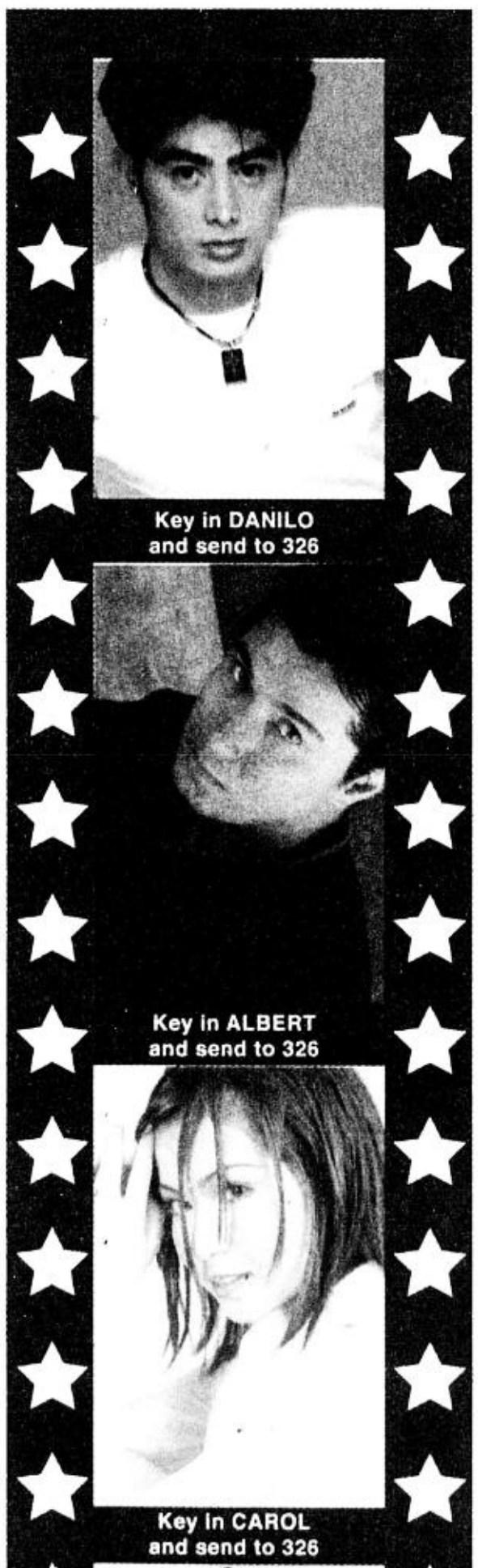
Take the SMART 64K Super SIM 2 with you anywhere in the world. Go ahead, it's got INTERNATIONAL ROAMING CAPABILITY, as reliable and strong all over the world as it is here at home. Text from anywhere in the world! SMART has the largest number of international roaming partners to send your SMS message worldwide.

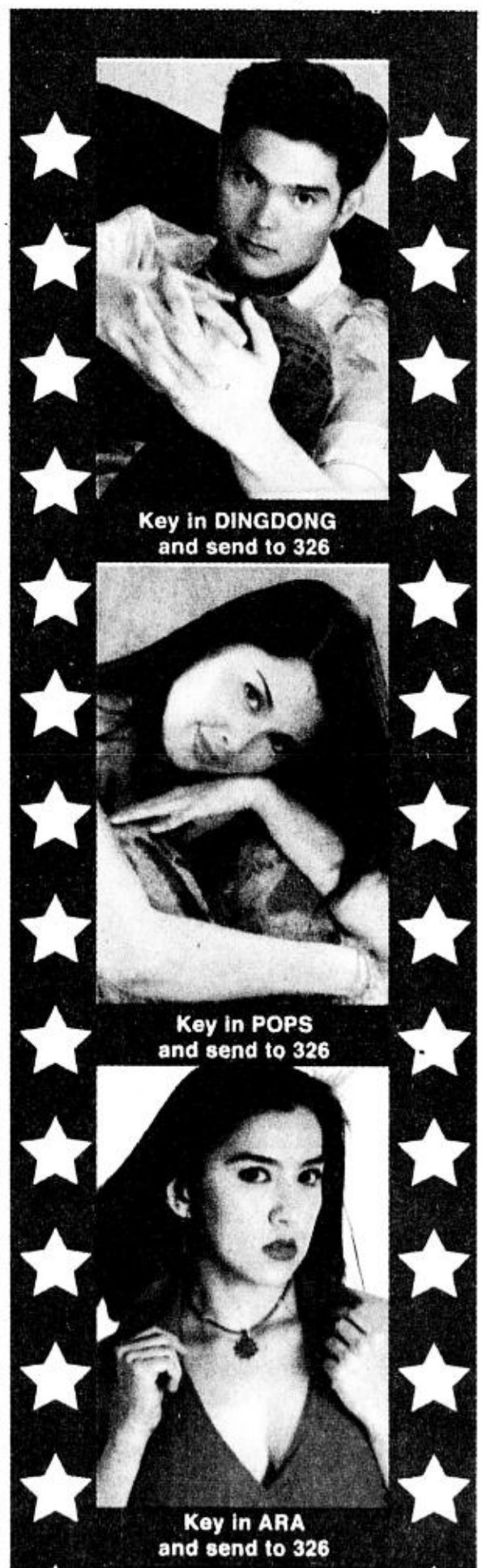
Key in UPDATE SS and send to 343 for free downloads of STARTXT and Pick of the Week on your SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, what's more, you also get automatic extra inbox PASSWORD PROTECTION. For current SMART Buddy Super SIM users, UPDATE SS to 343 gets you instant access to STARTXT and Pick of the Week.

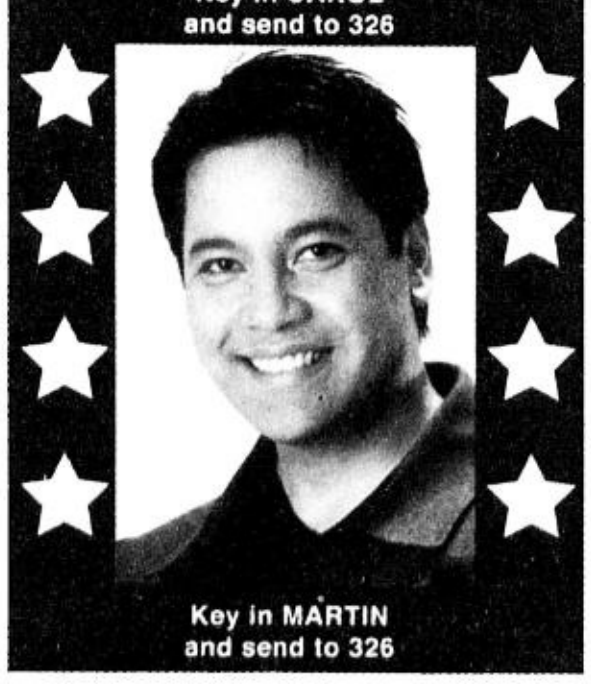
FREE Balance Inquiry! You can make FREE Buddy Balance text inquiries anytime. It is the undisputed highest memory SIM in the land. Get it now at an unbelievably low P250 only, or soon to be available for SIM upgrades at just P150! You get to even keep your old number!

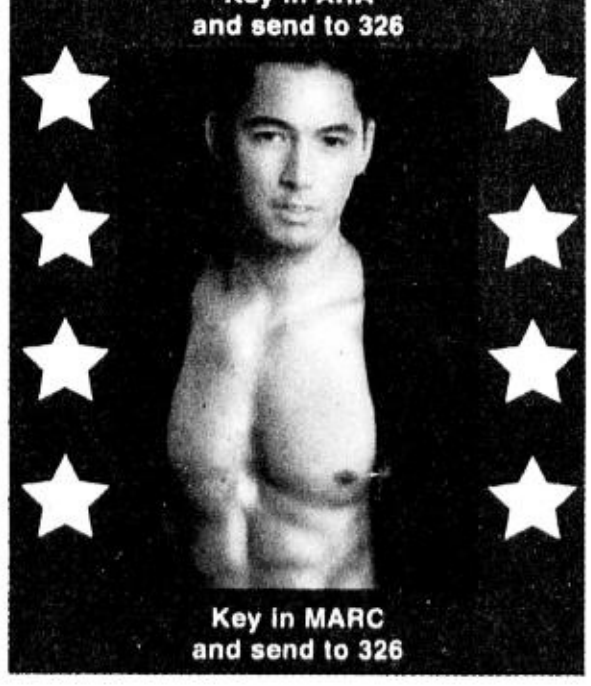
The SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 is the new fever about town. Catch it today!

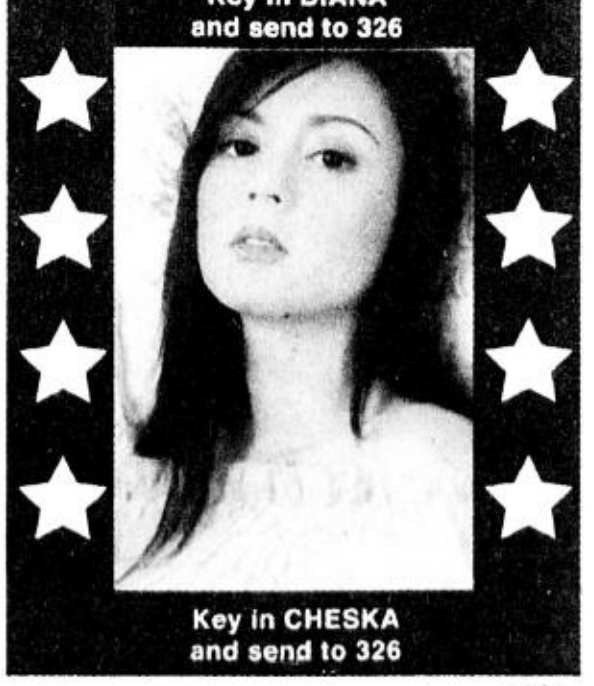
SMART's STARTXT is truly one of a kind. You can text the STARS themselves! It's really them! The messages you receive are their very own words. What's more any message you send will actually be read by them. SMART's STARTXT-just one example of the enhanced content on SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2!











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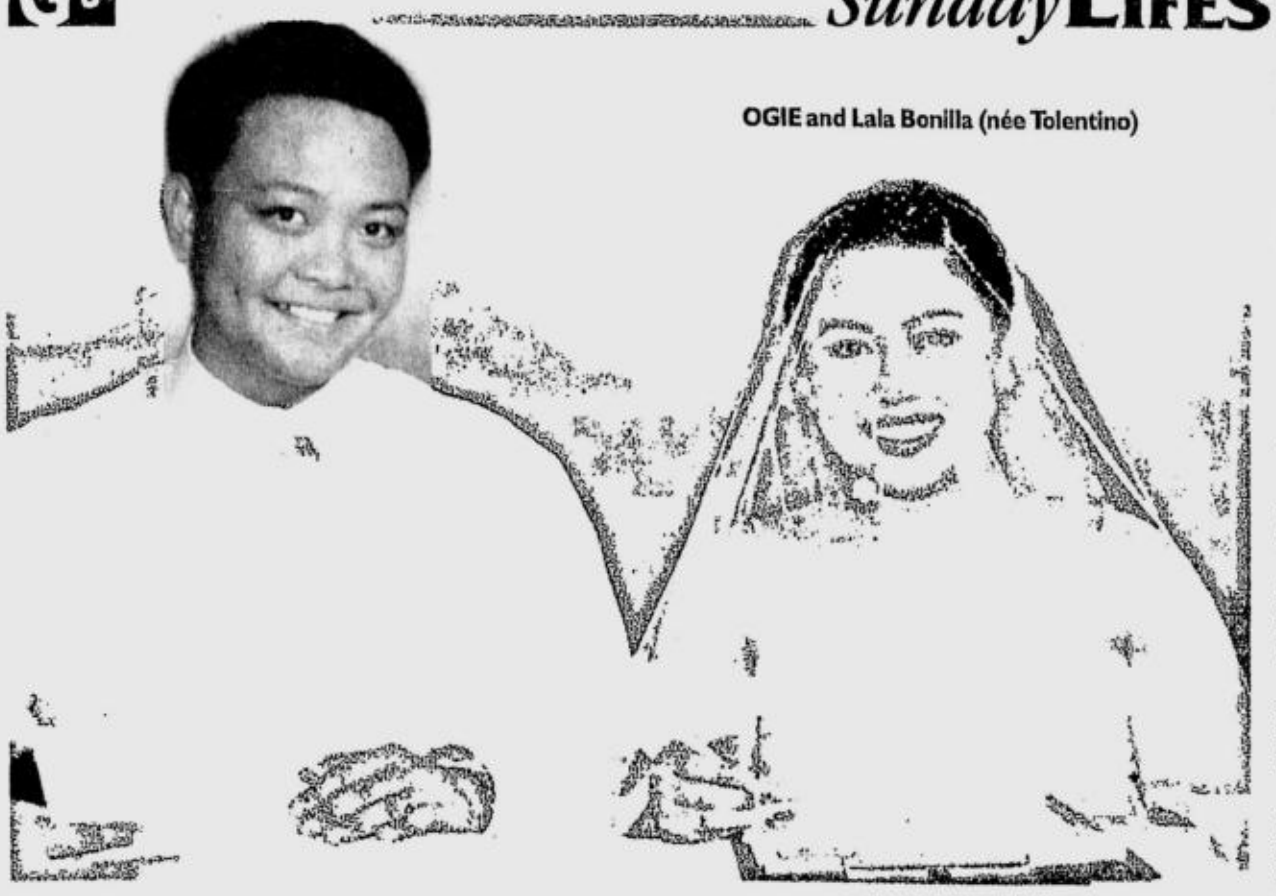

OGIE and Lala Bonilla (née Tolentino)

BONILLA-TOLENTINO NUPTIAL

Union with the Pope's 'blessing'

REYNARD "Ogie" Bonilla and Clarinda Sheila "Lala" Tolentino feel like Pope John Paul II himself has given his blessings to their wedding.

The two met in 1995 at the Rizal Park during the celebration of World Youth Day, which the Pope attended. It was not long before they fell in love.

But marriage was delayed as she pursued a law degree at the Ateneo de Manila University Law School while he took his MBA at the De La Salle University.

When they finally got married last December, Manila was set to host another global event and another brainchild of the Pope's, the World Meeting of Families.

Although health reasons kept the pontiff from attending, the newlywed felt like he was blessing their union as, by the time the meeting was held, they would be on their way to setting up their own family.

The December wedding, which the couple started planning as early as April 21, 2001, was held at the historic San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila.

Ogie marched down the aisle alone, followed by his parents, engineer Rodrigo and Lydia Bonilla.

Lala walked down the aisle with her parents, lawyer Jose and Elenita Tolentino. Her gown was of ivory satin with crystal inserts at the neckline.

Following the mid-afternoon ceremony, cock-

UNION/ G5

Dad, someone's been autoloading my phone regularly for 3 straight months...

must be an angel ©

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Family Sunday LIFESTYLE

SOS family house gives children warmth and security.

Orphaned, abandoned children get new family

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE YOUNGEST in a brood of eight, Leonilo Rivero, 30, was only three months old when he was brought to Save Our Souls (SOS) Children's Village in Tacloban City by a relative. His mother

ORPHANED/ H2

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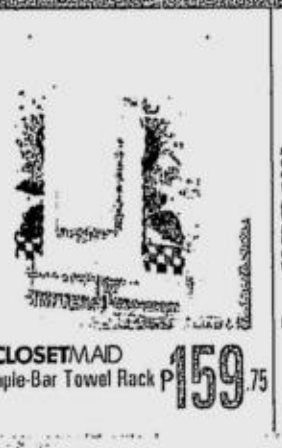
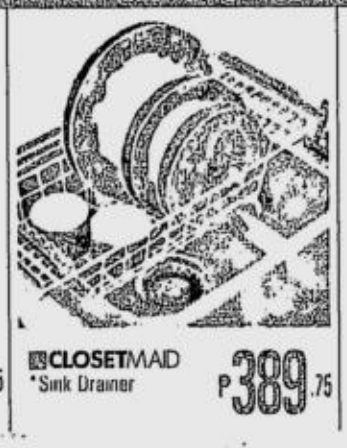


CLOSETMAID *Triple-Bar Towel Rack P159.75



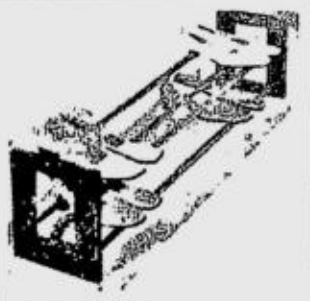
CLOSETMAID *Sink Drainer P389.75

CLOSETMAID *Medium Shower Caddy P199.75

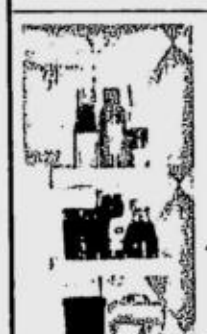
BUY I TAKE I
ALL DAY THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 8

EASI Corner Hamper P399.75

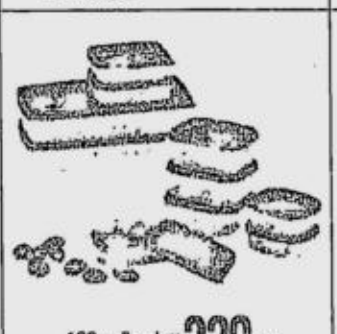
EASI *6-Shelf Sweater Organizer P249.75



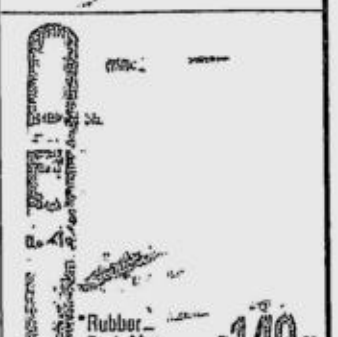
EASI *2 Tier Shoe Rack P699.75



*Kitchen Multi Function Pole Shelf P499.75

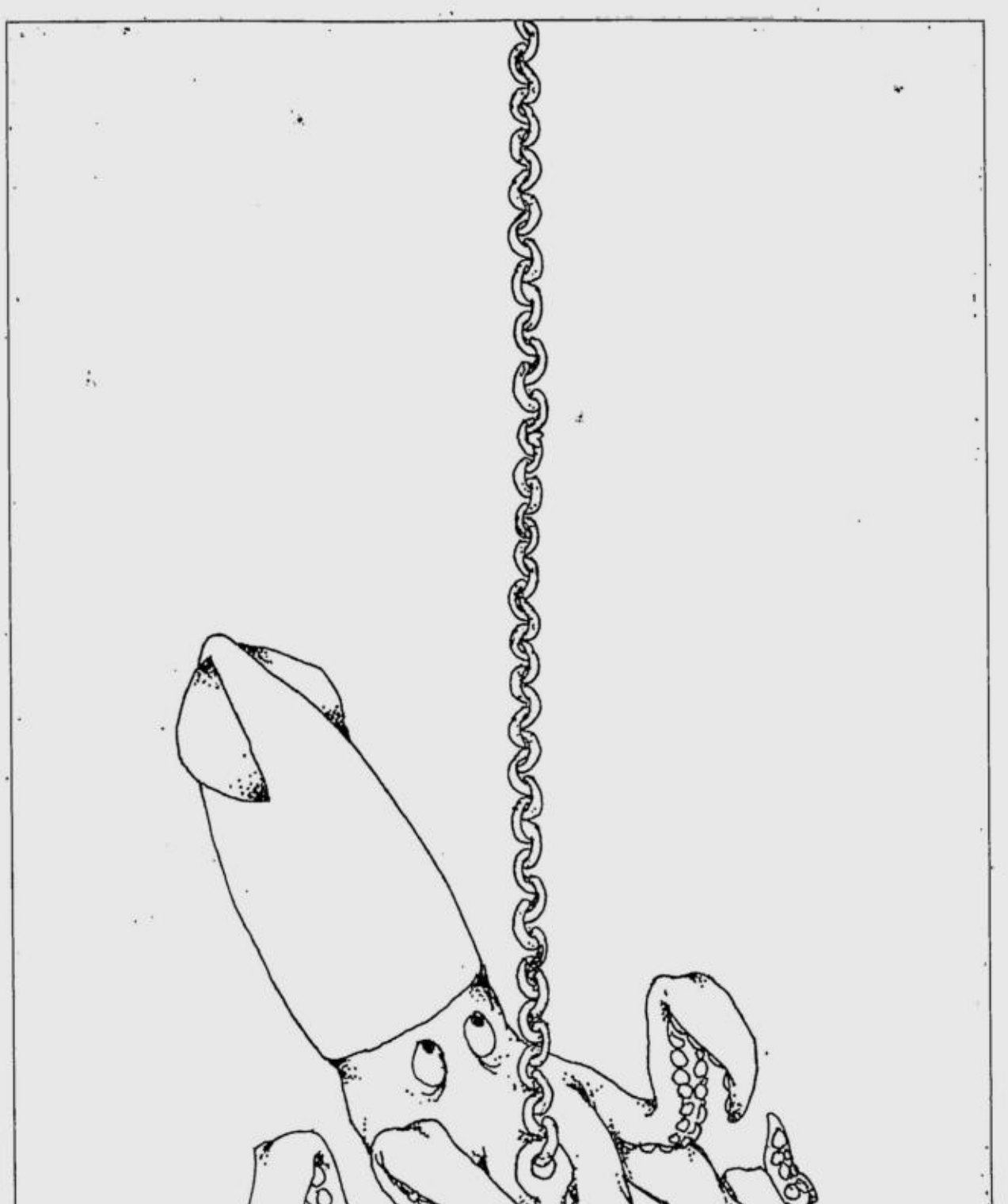


*20pc Food Container P229.75



*Rubber Bath Mat 40.5cm x 68cm P149.75

*MAKATI 2760 ... CERAMIC PLAZA ... BUILD MORE FOR LESS
*ACCESSORIES NOT INCLUDED
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2434 Series of 2003



Del Monte Elbow Macaroni stays firm even when overcooked.

Macaroni con Calamares

1 pack (400 g) DEL MONTE Elbow Macaroni, cooked per package directions
1 Kg. squid
3 cloves garlic, crushed
1 medium onion, chopped
1 pouch (250 g) DEL MONTE Italian Style Spaghetti Sauce
1 medium green bell pepper, cut into strips
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into strips
1/4 cup DEL MONTE Chili Ketchup
2 Tbsp. atsuete juice

1. Remove ink sac and eyes from head of squid. Cut into rings and chop head. Marinate in 2 Tbsp. calamansi juice and 2/3 tsp. iodized fine salt (or 2 tsp. iodized rock salt) for 30 minutes. Drain.

2. Sauté garlic, onion and squid. Add DEL MONTE Spaghetti Sauce, 1/2 tsp. iodized fine salt (or 1/2 Tbsp. iodized rock salt), 1/4 tsp. pepper, 1-1/2 Tbsp. sugar and remaining ingredients except macaroni. Simmer for 20 minutes. Blend with cooked DEL MONTE Elbow Macaroni. Top with cheese, if desired.

Makes 12 servings.

You can't go wrong.

Orphaned, abandoned children get new family

From page H1

died after giving birth to him.

When he was in Grade 1, a woman, who introduced herself as his sister, visited him.

She gave him a pop-up Christmas card telling him that his other siblings would visit him. He became excited. He looked forward to that visit until he was in Grade 6. When it never happened, "I stopped believing in that card's message so I threw it in a garbage can."

But with the care and guidance of SOS, Rivero found a family. He was able to finish psychology at the Emilio Aguinaldo College and became a youth educator of SOS Ayala Alabang. Then he went to law school and is now preparing for his bar exams. He is also currently a teacher assistant at Montessori.

"I never really missed my own family because SOS has given me that sense of belonging. So every time I see the actor Dante Rivero on television, I tell my three children in jest that he's their grandfather."

Melba Areja, 24, was only two years old when she and her two other siblings, Johnny and Josephine, were "surrendered" by her mother to SOS Cebu.

She was already in high school when she learned about her adoption. "Nanay Flora of SOS explained that our mother, who was a laundrywoman, couldn't support us anymore. My father was married to another woman when he met my mom."

Josephine, who took up nursing for two years, is now married while Johnny, who took up a merchant marine course, works as a tricycle driver. They both live in Cebu.

Areja, a management graduate of Southwestern University, worked in a department store and the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu before becoming a bookkeeper of SOS Ayala Alabang. She still writes to her mother and plans to visit her next year.

"The experience was painful. But as the years went by, I began to understand why she gave us up. I just keep in mind that God has a plan for us," she says.

Jenneth Caseres, 25, was 13 when her mother, also a laundrywoman, left her and four other siblings with their grandparents. Their father, who used to work as a draftsman, became an alcoholic after his wife left him.

> SOS Children's Villages believe 'help can only be effective when a child grows up within a family and a home'

Their grandparents, with the help of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, brought them to SOS Ayala Alabang.

EMMANUEL Leyson, project director of SOS Children's Village Manila Inc.

With the help of SOS, Caseres finished psychology at Emilio Aguinaldo College, then worked as a guidance counselor. She's now married to Samuel, who's also an SOS "child," and they have a 7-month-old baby. She runs her own mini-grocery.

Her other siblings are also doing well in their work and studies. Rommel is working with Export Processing Zone Authority. Johnnylee is taking up information management at Lyceum University, Jenny studies psychology at Emilio Aguinaldo College, and Jocelyn is a medical technology student of Far Eastern University.

"It's a waste of time to harbor ill feelings towards my parents. So I just focused on my studies and siblings and now, my family and business," Caseres said.

Rivero, Areja and Caseres are three of the more than 700 SOS children or "integrated youth" who are now grown up and living independently.

"If they have become successful (because of) education, training, self-confidence and stability of their roots in the SOS Children's Village family, we can say that we have done a great job," said Emmanuel Leyson, project director of SOS Children's Village Manila Inc.

Family and home

SOS Children's Villages Philippines is a private, non-political, non-denominational welfare organization providing long-term care and education to orphaned, abandoned and neglected children.

Dr. Hermann Gmeiner opened the very first SOS Children's Village in 1949 in Imst, Austria when he was confronted with the suffering of many orphaned and homeless children after World War II. His concept that "help can only be effective when a child grows up within a family and a home" was soon adopted in every continent.

"Dr. Gmeiner's idea was to revolutionize traditional orphanages. And such concept was based on his personal experience. At 5, he was already an orphan. His sister, who was then 16, became his (surrogate) mother. The original SOS was called House of Peace based on his belief that if children grew up in a good environment, there's a big chance for them to become instruments of peace," Leyson explained.

Sense of belonging

SOS Philippines was established in 1967 by Dr. George Winternitz, who was then a consul of Austria, and his wife, Susie.

It now has villages in Lipa, Batangas; Calbayog, Western Samar; barangay Tigbao, Tacloban; Talamban, Cebu; Bajada, Davao City; Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa; and soon in Zarraga, Iloilo.

Thirty-three years after the seed of SOS was planted in Lipa City, 578 children have been placed in six SOS Children's Villages, 136 boys and girls in six youth facilities, over 340 children in two SOS kindergarten and over 2,300 children and youngsters in three SOS Hermann Gmeiner schools. The children are referred by institutions like White Cross, Bantay Bata, GMA-7, Hospicio de San Jose, Asilo de San Vicente, Nayon ng Kabataan, Missionaries of Charity and Salesians.

Children with learning disabilities are also brought to SOS villages where they are taught by the staff of Center for Learning Disabilities.

SOS continues to abide by the four principles advanced by Dr. Gmeiner.

According to Leyson, every child is given a mother, someone to turn to at all times. The village director or any male staff member serves as the father. Boys and girls of various ages grow up together as brothers and sisters. Every SOS village family has a house of its own, which is an integral part of the village community. "This gives the children cultural roots and a feeling of belonging," Leyson said.

At the age of 14, boys leave the village for a youth facility in Las Piñas. Girls stay at SOS until high school. When they go to college, they stay in boarding houses run by SOS. On weekends, they come home to the village.

Making a difference

SOS does not only care for orphaned and abandoned kids. It also provides support services for other families like health and medical facilities, mother and child social centers, vocational training centers, counseling and day care centers, schools and extension pro grams for community development.

ORPHANED/ H3

For less than P5 a day,
Michael got himself a brand new car.

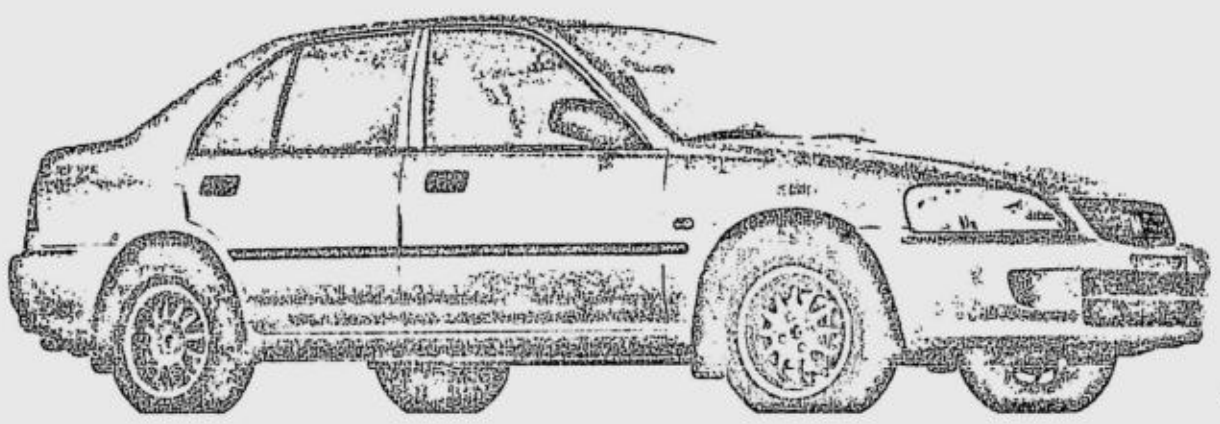


Photo may vary from actual unit

ENERVON NEW YEAR NEW ENERGY

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Honda City 1.3GL
Michael Miquiabas
43-A Sebastian St., San Roque II, Bagong Pag-Asa, QC
P50,000 SM Gift Certificates
Salesclerk: Alona Buyongan Drugstore: Manson Drug Novaliches

Two 1st Prizes:
P100,000 SM Gift Certificates (Consumer)
P25,000 SM Gift Certificates (Salesclerk and Drugstore)

Consumer: Leonora Aguirre B-6C L-22 Kingstown Subd., Bagumbong Kalookan City
Salesclerk: Zabel C. Mactan Drugstore: Sta. Quiteria Pharmacy Caloocan
Consumer: Louie Buenaventura Aurora Village, Zamboanga City
Salesclerk: Yolly F. Delacruz Drugstore Joane's Pharmacy Main Branch

Three 2nd Prizes:
21" Color TV + DVD Mini-Component (Consumer)
VCD Mini-Component (Salesclerk and Drugstore)

Consumer: Norma F. Palao 32 RHS Tubon, Iligan City
Salesclerk: Florabel M. Sagado Drugstore: Loy's Pharmacy Iligan
Consumer: Sonia O. Cervantes 80 T. Benitez St., West Triangle Homes, QC
Salesclerk: Melanie Montejo Drugstore: Super K Drugstore Cubao
Consumer: Sandia Aranjuez Carcar, Cebu
Salesclerk: Jean Bombarda Drugstore: Didings Pharmacy Manalili

Five 3rd Prizes: Intel Pentium 4 Personal Computer (Consumer) Nokia 3510 (Salesclerk and Drugstore)

Consumer: June G. Vadao Ph 8A Pkg. 10 Blk 156 Bagong Silang, Kalookan City
Salesclerk: Racquel C. Guilao Drugstore: Sta. Quiteria Pharmacy Bagong Silang
Consumer: Rowena D. Cañete Cordova, Cebu
Salesclerk: Geronima Mondoñedo Drugstore: Didings Pharmacy Manalili
Consumer: Armela P. Saluta #258 Jaime Reyes St., E.B. Magatong, Negros Occidental
Salesclerk: Janeth Nojo Drugstore: Negros Grace Pharmacy Silay
Consumer: Sherry Ann B. Pitogo San Luis Comp. San Jose, Zamboanga
Salesclerk: Liezel Paglinawan Drugstore: United Pharmacy Magno
Consumer: Teresita Chio 22A Don Alfaro Ext., Zamboanga
Salesclerk: Annalyn Rojas Drugstore: Leoson's Pharmacy Jasmin Tower

Area Winners: Nokia 5210 (Consumer) P3,000 SM Gift Certificates (Salesclerk and Drugstore)

GMA

Consumer: Vesta Cawagat
Address: 54 A Road 10, Project 6, QC
Salesclerk: Racel Cervantes
Drugstore: South Star Drug (SM North EDSA)

Consumer: Fannie Cezar
Address: 2020 Smith St., Paco Manila
Salesclerk: Geoffrey V. Zolina
Drugstore: Sentoza Pharmacy (Linao, Paco)

Consumer: Garry Obeja
Address: #6 Roque St., Tonsuya, Malabon
Salesclerk: Annalie Claveria
Drugstore: St. Pierre Pharmacy (Longus, Malabon)

Consumer: Rudy Singla
Address: Laluna Group Camarin Caloocan
Salesclerk: Ana Rose
Drugstore: Sycamore Drug (Bagong Silang)

Consumer: Imelda Tapucar
Address: 77 Tricon St., Antipolo City
Salesclerk: Betsy M. Valenzuela
Drugstore: Prime Drugstore (Antipolo)

LUZON

Consumer: Sgt. Renato A. Remon
Address: Purityvill Subd., Tagumpay Orani, Bataan
Salesclerk: Karen Marzan
Drugstore: Manson (San Fernando)

Consumer: Joenel B. Garrancho
Address: Tulo, Batangas City
Salesclerk: Jackielou H. Diona
Drugstore: Chavez Pharmacy (Rizal Bats.)

Consumer: Eugenia Q. Asor
Address: Sta. Cecilia Tagkawayan, Quezon
Salesclerk: Arman L. Mataya
Drugstore: Carlos Super Drug (Lucena)

Consumer: Rodolfo P. Sorita
Address: San Jose Bag. Cagayan
Salesclerk: Marie Anne Binasoy
Drugstore: Rodamel Drugstore (Don Domingo)

Consumer: Rowan R. Quilang
Address: Hi-way Anao Cabruan, Isabela
Salesclerk: Sonia C. Bunagan
Drugstore: Rodamel Drugstore (Tuguegarao)

VISAYAS

Consumer: Analin Gadian
Address: Sto. Niño, San Miguel, Iloilo
Salesclerk: Gloria C. Saburnido
Drugstore: EVZ Pharmacy (Molo, Iloilo)

Consumer: Raul Carias
Address: Murcia, Negros Occidental
Salesclerk: Melcerie Yusay
Drugstore: Negros Grace Pharmacy (Luzuriaga, Bacolod)

Consumer: Tessie N. Yu
Address: 10-F Gochan St., Mabolo, Cebu
Salesclerk: Judith Castroverde
Drugstore: Didings Pharmacy (Manalili, Cebu)

Consumer: Amy Aguipo
Address: Cogon, Lilo-An Cebu
Salesclerk: Cecilia Avila
Drugstore: Didings Pharmacy (Manalili, Cebu)

Consumer: Jose Ragacion, Jr.
Address: San Juan North Drive Bacolod City
Salesclerk: Melcerie C. Yusay
Drugstore: Negros Grace Pharmacy (Luzuriaga)

MINDANAO

Consumer: Ermilinda V. Banzon
Address: I. Magno St., Zamboanga City
Salesclerk: Juliet Rebollos
Drugstore: Golden Drug (I. Magno)

Consumer: Rafael M. Fernando
Address: #24 11th 129th Sts.
Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City
Salesclerk: Reinalyn Rebuyas
Drugstore: Dynamic Pharmacy (CDO)

Consumer: Maureen Clata
Address: Blk. 6 SR New Matina, Davao City
Salesclerk: Judelyn Conlu
Drugstore: Farmacia Southern (Sta. Ana)

Consumer: Victor Demoy
Address: Armor Villaga San Roque, Zamboanga
Salesclerk: Apple Jean Cabansay
Drugstore: United Pharmacy (La Purisima)

Consumer: Jonel J. Tongol
Address: Ramiroville Macanhan, CDO
Salesclerk: Josephine Israel
Drugstore: Rose Pharmacy (V-Cagan)

Winners will be notified through registered mail. GMA winners may claim their prizes at the Probus office (4F Bonaventure Plaza Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM). Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the designated field office at their areas to be identified in the official notification letter. The mailed official notification and proper identification documents shall be presented when claiming the prizes. The winner shall sign a Prize Acknowledgement form.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1076 series of 2002.

MULTIVITAMINS ENERVON FOR ENERGY

SOS Children's Village Manila's national coordination office in Ayala Alabang (top). Jenneth Caseres and Leonilo Rivero of SOS Integrated Youth are now professionals (left).

Orphaned, abandoned children get new family

MELBA Areja of SOS Integrated Youth is now a bookkeeper at SOS Ayala Alabang

From page H2

"SOS guides children to help themselves. If other people would see the kind of care we offer here, I hope that they will help the villages. It's only through their aid that we can continue our mission of reaching out to more Filipino children in need," Leyson said.

Those who want to donate or volunteer their services can visit SOS Children's Villages Philippines' national coordination office on Mindanao Drive, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa. Call 807-0764 and 850-9654.

"I'm lucky to be a part of the SOS family, which has given me self-esteem, good education and proper values. I just hope that my own family would see me now and what I've done with my life," said Rivero, who organized the Once-a-Month Club of SOS Integrated Youth. Its main objective is to help their other "brothers" and "sisters" in job placements. "This is one way of giving back to SOS the blessings they have given us."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

New chairs and tables for daycare center

AS part of its annual community outreach program, BASF Philippines Inc. recently awarded chairs, tables, educational charts, ceiling fans, trash bins, linoleums and a new signage to the San Ramon Day Care Center in Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna.

The assistance concludes phase one of BASF's year-round outreach program, dubbed as "BASF and San Ramon Day Care Center... together we bring out the best."

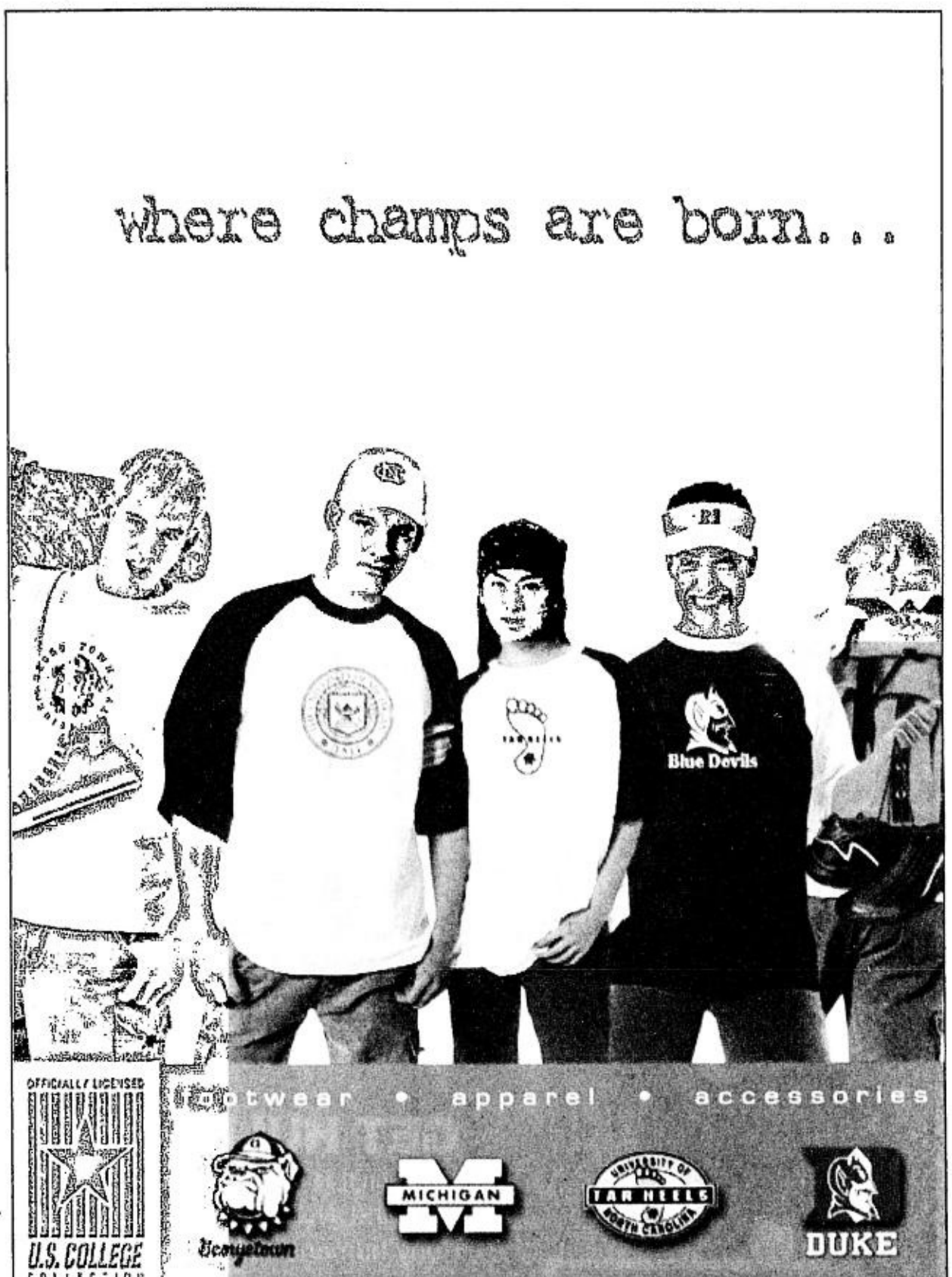
This year, BASF celebrates 40 years of partnership and commitment to its customers, employees and the Filipino public.

"We are honored to be able to extend this celebration to you through this community outreach project," said KP Lau, BASF Philippines president and managing director.

"Because of this, our celebration becomes more meaningful, knowing that together, we were able to assist in providing a more conducive learning environment for the students and future students of San Ramon Day Care Center."

BASF, a leading multinational chemical company, offers a range of high performance products, including chemicals, plastics, performance and agricultural products, fine chemicals, as well as crude oil and natural gas.

BASF Philippines Inc. president and managing director KP Lau helps an excited pupil sit on one of the 40 new chairs awarded by BASF to the San Ramon Day Care Center in Canlubang.



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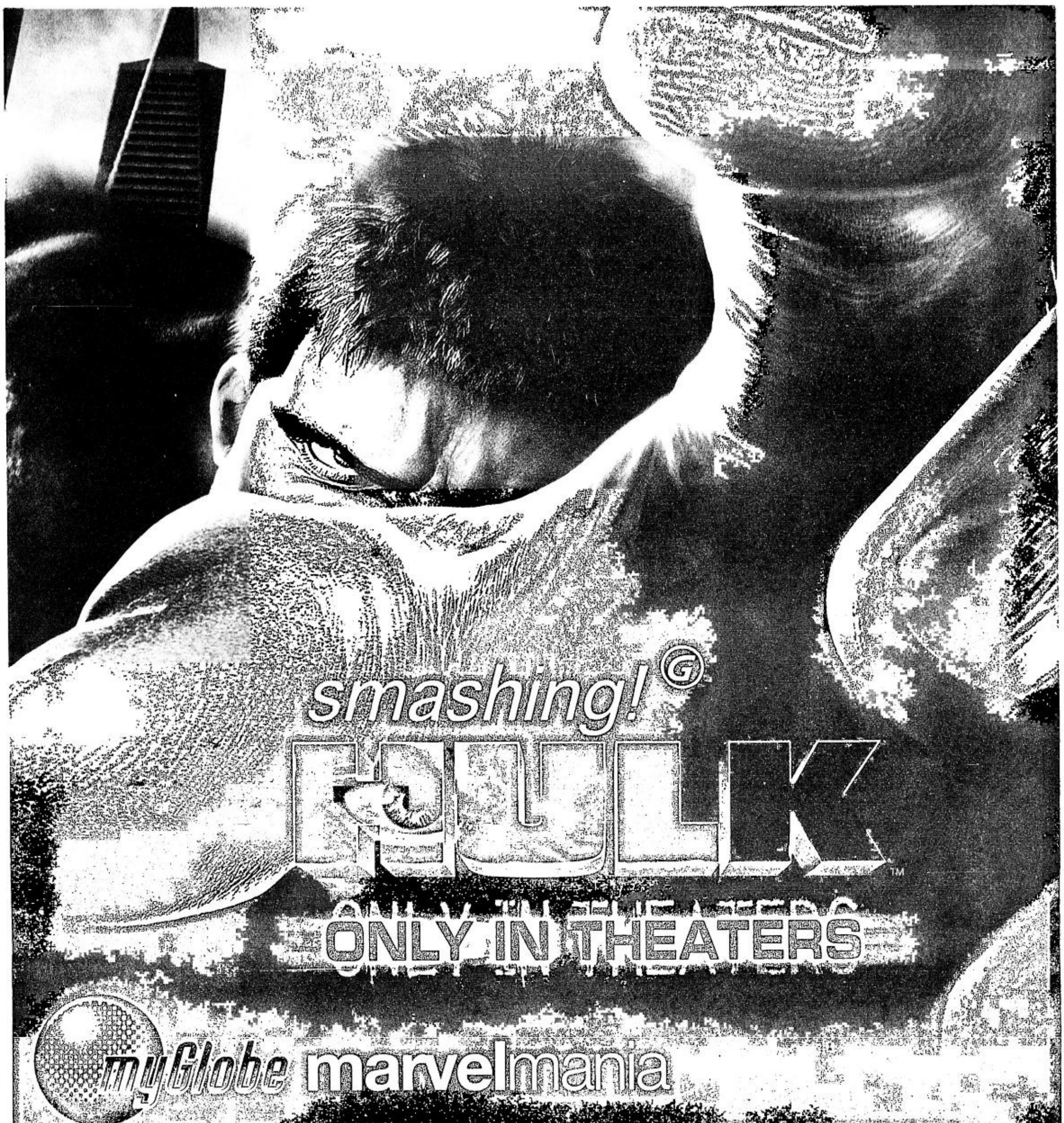

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Land to go to

Legoland in California is kid-friendly and family-oriented

THERE'S more to California than Mickey Mouse and Disneyland and E.T. and Universal Studios.

In fact, Legoland California, a 52-hectare attraction in Carlsbad near San Diego, may be the Golden State's best and most interactive family-oriented theme park yet.

The theme park that opened in 1999 is from the makers of the very same Lego educational toys, distributed exclusively in the Philippines by Gift Gate, which have inspired countless kids the world over to build miniature slices of life from bright-colored building blocks.

The California attraction, the first of its kind in the United States, has been inspired by earlier

LAND/ I2

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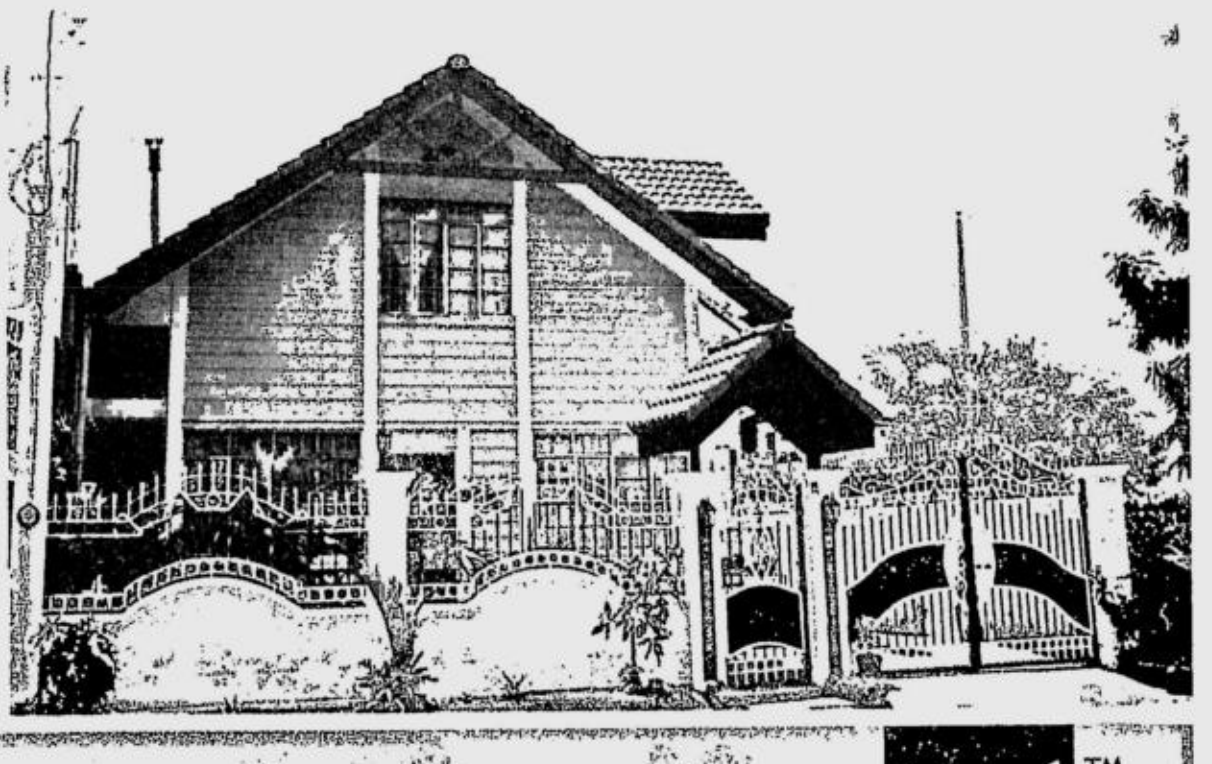

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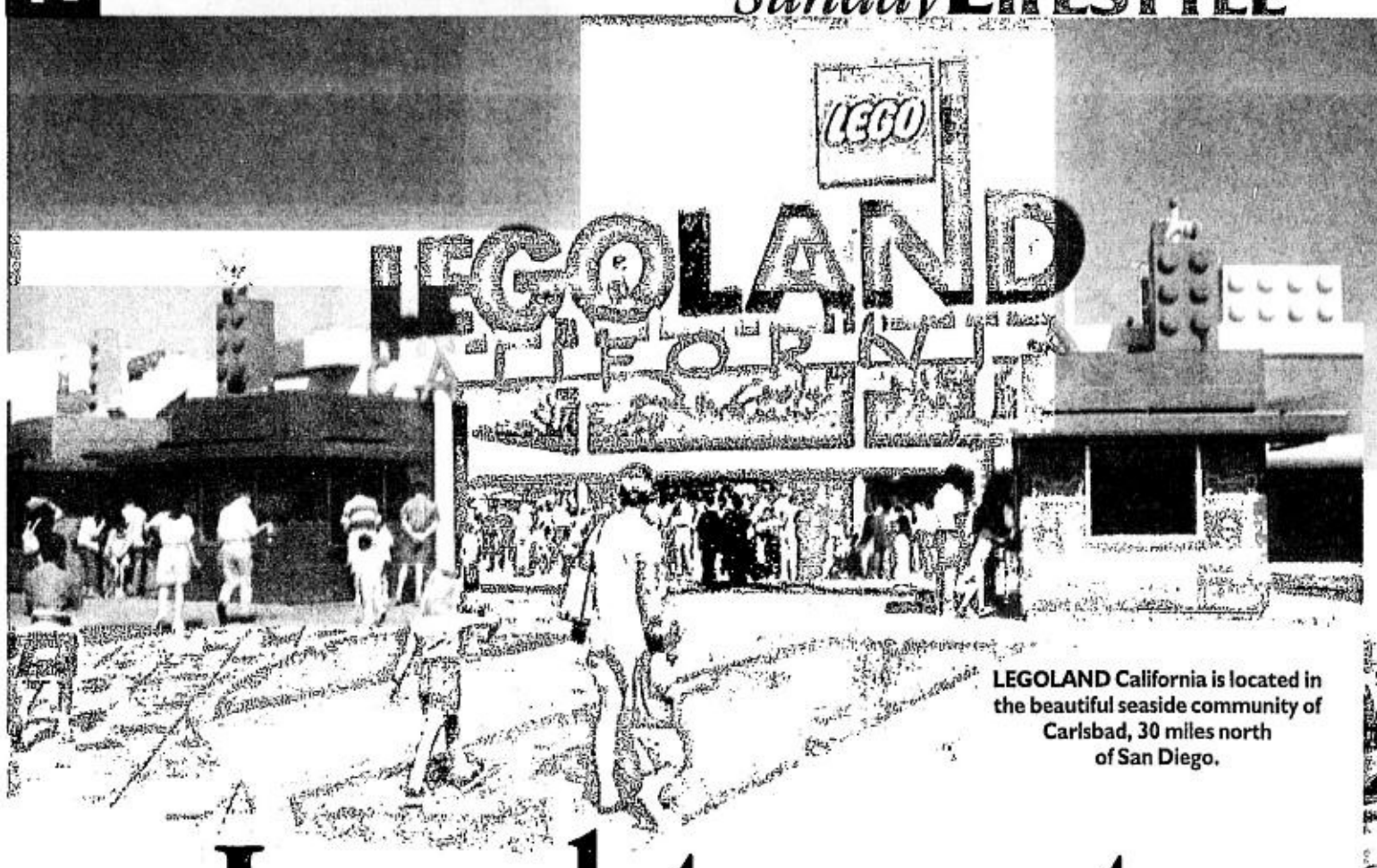
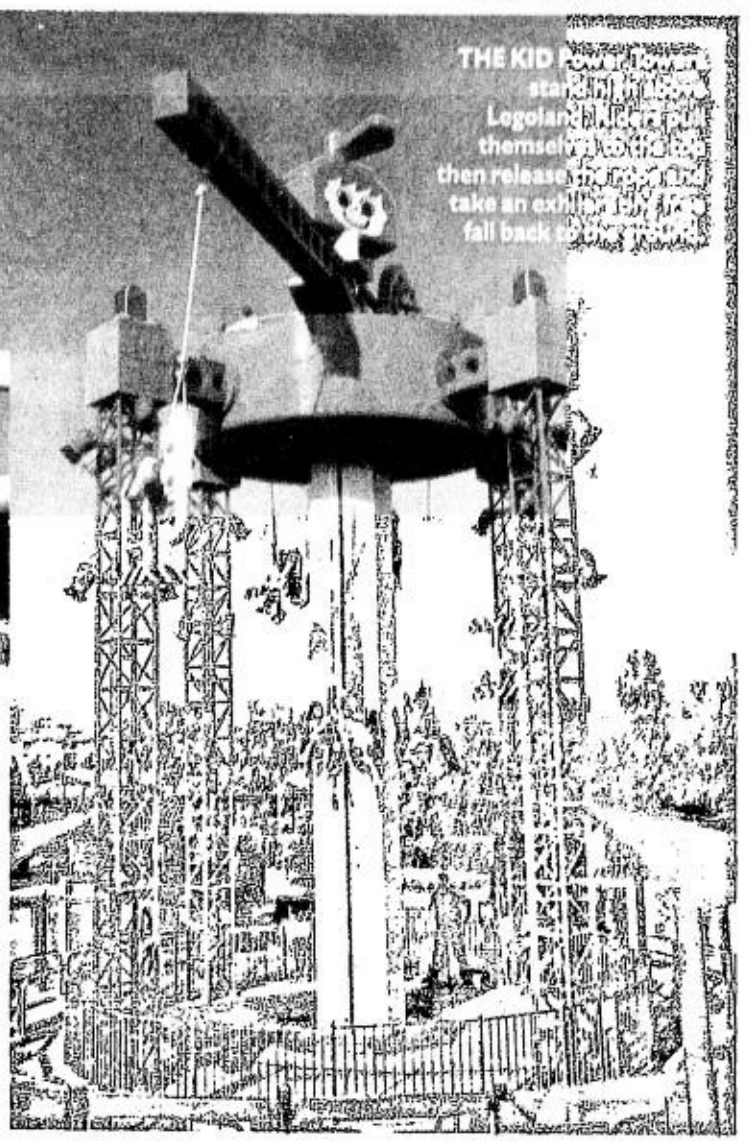


LEGOLAND California is located in the beautiful seaside community of Carlsbad, 30 miles north of San Diego.



THE KID P... star... Logolan... themsel... then release... take an exh... fall back t...

Land to go to

One doesn't have to be a child to relish the 50 or so rides and attractions the theme park offers

From page I1

Legolands in Denmark, England and Germany.

Together with such theme parks as Universal Studios, SeaWorld and, yes, Disneyland, Legoland was among the hundreds of exhibitors in the recent International Powwow held in St. Louis *(see related story on page D1)*.

"It's a toy and a park in itself," said Kina Paegert, Legoland California's senior representative for media relations. "We're very different from other theme parks. For one, our attraction is geared toward families with kids 2-12 years old."

But one doesn't have to be a child to relish the 50 or so rides and attractions the theme park offers. The Bionicle Blaster, an interactive ride, for instance, consists of 12 individual circular cars that twist and turn on a round platform, but the real blast is the wheel in the center of each car that allows riders to control the speed of their ride.

A new Lego Sports Center with basketball, soccer and football facilities—tactile, yes, not the virtual-reality versions—recently opened, allowing families more time to bond while having fun. The theme park's admission prices are $41.95 for adults, and $34.95 for children (3-12 years old) and senior citizens.

Legoland also features over 5,000 models crafted from more than 30-million Lego bricks. As if to further reflect the beauty and diversity of America, attractions in the Miniland are grouped under five regions: Washington, D.C., New York City, the West Coast, New England and New Orleans.

"We're soon launching four more theme parks, including one in Virginia and Seoul [Korea]," said Paegert. "Our rides provide kids with a good training ground to eventually try big rides elsewhere."

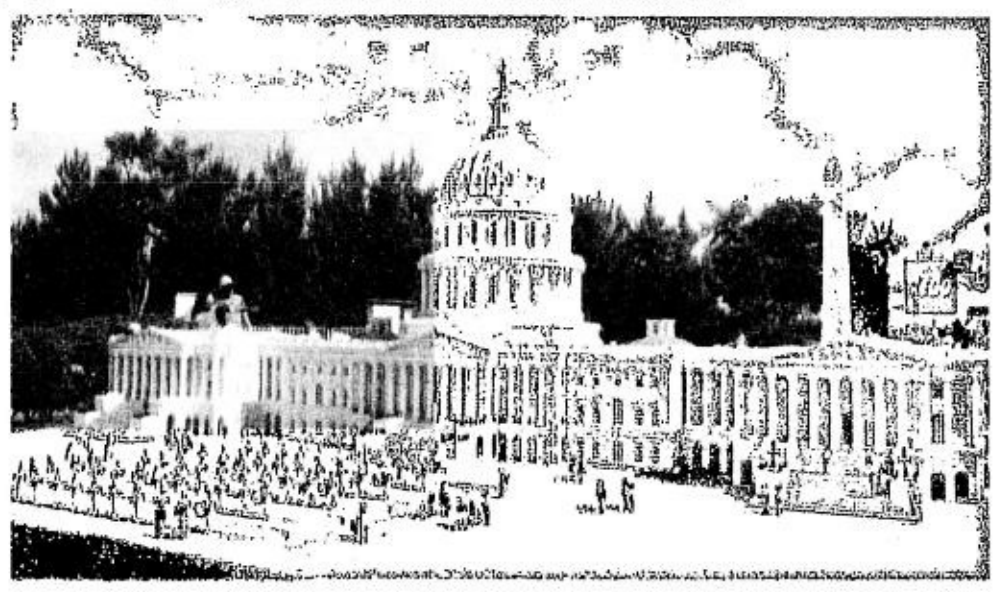
Much like the lifelong skills countless wide-eyed children acquire by playing with their Lego sets.

Alex Y. Vergara

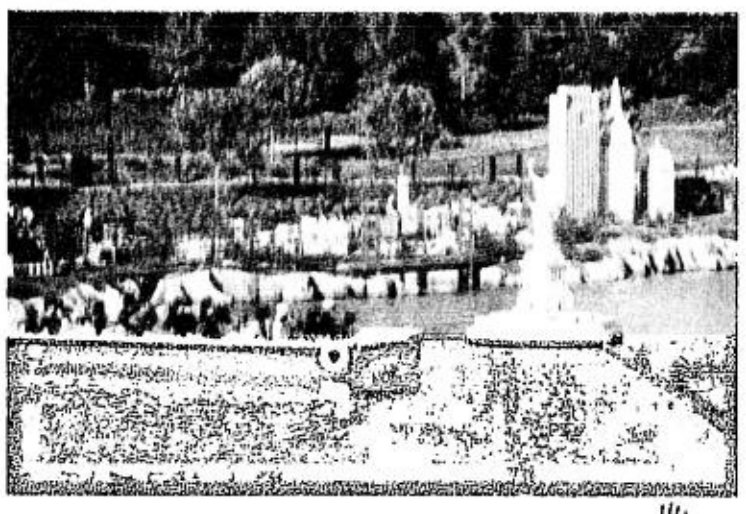
Visit www.legoland.com

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

A MASTER model builder works on a building in Miniland's San Francisco.

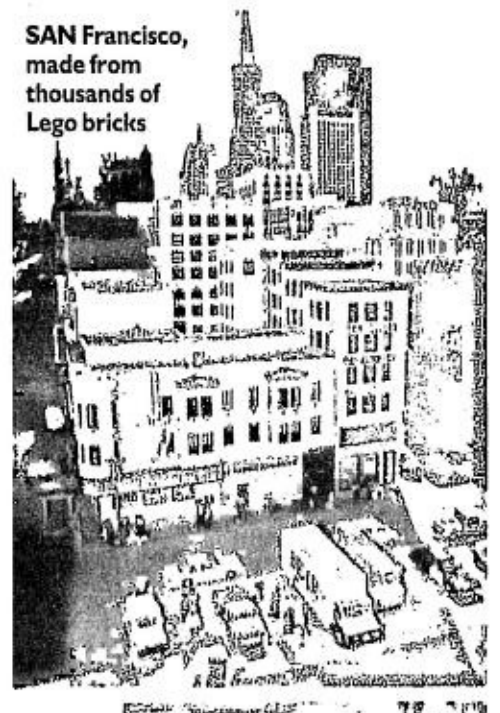


WHITE clouds roll over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The 1:20 scale model is made of 380,000 Lego bricks and is located in Miniland.



THE NEW York City skyline is one of the landmarks recreated in Lego bricks in the New York section of Miniland.

CROWDS of tiny Lego brick people celebrate the passing of Mardi Gras floats in the New Orleans area of Miniland.



SAN Francisco, made from thousands of Lego bricks

GUESTS soar high above Legoland on the Dragon Coaster, one of three roller coasters in the theme park.

THE FUN Town Cop is always on alert.

SHEILA Tan with escort Mike Barroga

Intramuros upholds tradition with Santacruzan

COSTUME designer Lito Perez of Camp Suki mounted a grand Santacruzan, one of the most colorful Maytime festivals in the Philippines, in Intramuros.

The Santacruzan, a religious-historical procession that commemorates the search for the Holy Cross by Queen Helena (Reina Elena) and her son, the newly converted Emperor Constantine, was sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Department of Tourism, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Jollibee Aduana, Crossover 101.1, Wella, Rain Forest Mineral Water and Mama Sita's.

Perez, using the 1890s style for inspiration, created 40 Maria Clara costumes for his *sagalas*. They were escorted by men in *gobernadorcillo* outfits consisting of barong frock, coat and *salakot*.

The designer collaborated with theater actor and Manila councilor Lou Veloso of Teatro Sta. Ana to mount a *tibagan* or *moromoro*.

During the Santacruzan, after the last *sagala* left Fort Santiago on her way to Plaza San Luis outside the old Jesuit church of San Ignacio de Loyola, the beautifully decorated *carroza* of the Inmaculada Concepcion emerged amid applause and cheers.

A sumptuous Filipino dinner buffet at the Teatrillo de Casa Manila capped the May traditional event.

DESIGNER Lito Perez with emcees Gerry Gonzalo and Marinelle Manundo at the Santacruzan sa Intramuros

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

His adulterous wife dares him to leave her

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Two weeks ago, my wife admitted she had an affair with a married man. It happened early this year and lasted for two months only—or so she says. She said it ended only because my mother-in-law discovered it and told her to stop it and confess it to me.

She blamed me for driving her into the affair, accusing me of not being a good provider and being out of touch often—a usual complaint of hers even if she knows quite well that my job requires me to be away for weeks or months.

I had the urge to smash her face at that moment, but because I loved her, I just cried until I had no more tears. For the sake of our children, I told her that I would forget what happened and we would remain a family.

When my wife refused to continue their affair, her ex-lover spread the word about their relationship. He even slashed the tires of our car.

I know I could solve this embarrassment by moving to a town where our story is not known.

What I can't move away from are the thoughts that the woman I married had been defiled, that she might be carrying his child or have gotten a disease from him that could infect me.

What hurts me most, though, is, she still has the nerve to say that it would be "okay" should I decide to end our marriage.

DANTE

After she has seen how much she has hurt her husband, after her affair has become the talk of the town, and realized what a cad her ex-lover really is, I'm sure any wife would deeply regret her infidelity.

But not every wife can openly take the blame for breaking her marriage. Because of her pride, or to protect her sanity, a wife might plead innocent. Your wife might be such type, particularly if, even before this scandal, she has always had difficulty admitting her mistakes. In such cases, we can only hope that she will soon get the courage to face her guilt.

That day might come sooner if you admit to her that you have a share of the blame, too. After all, while your job might justify your being physically away, no job can justify your being emotionally distant, too.

You should have bridged the distance with more frequent phone calls or text messages, at the very least.

I'm sure you'd find it difficult to apologize because you think you are the aggrieved party. But strange as it might sound, your wife believes she is an aggrieved party, too.

So, perhaps all she wants is for you to say sorry for your mistakes before she admits that she is much more sorry for hers.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI office

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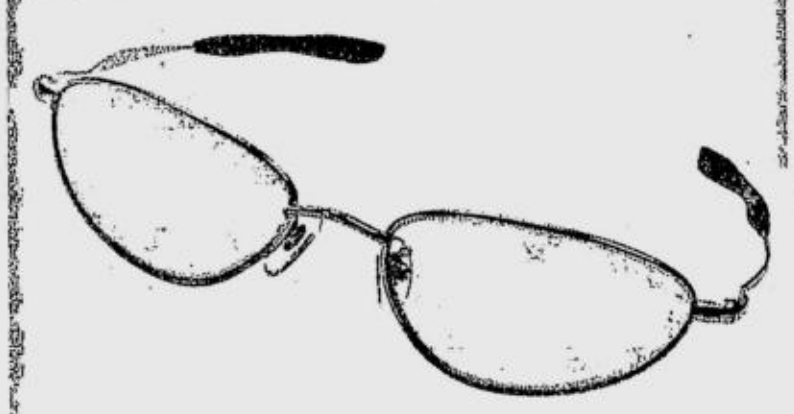

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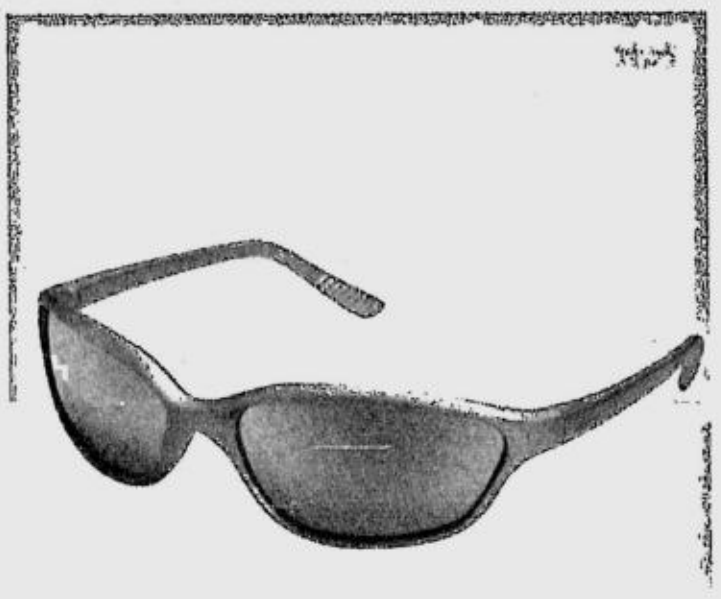
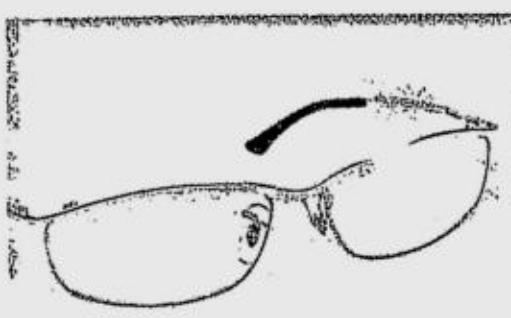


Predator

Predator Cutters



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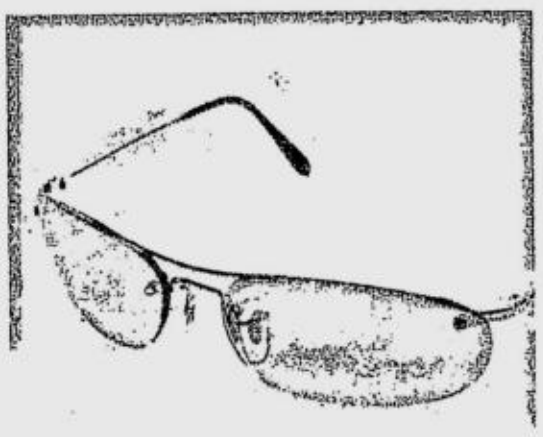

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See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211. Series of 2003.

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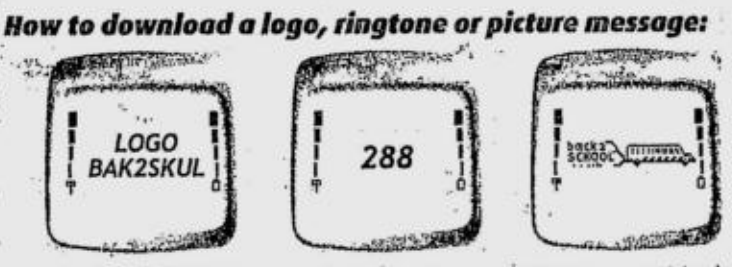

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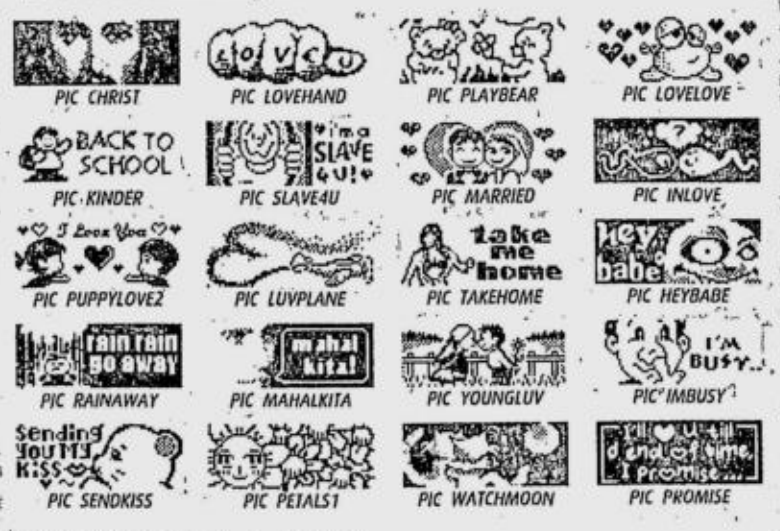

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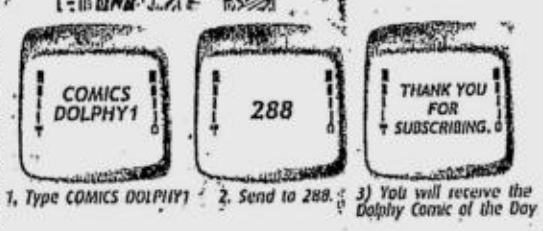

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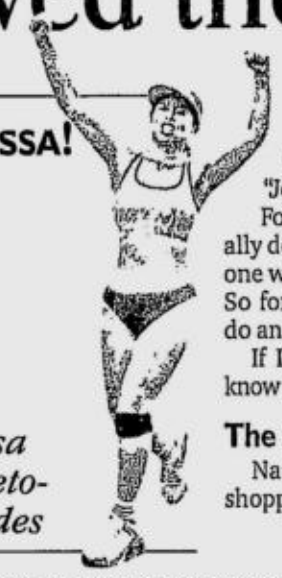
How I survived the triathlon, fashionably so



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THERE are women who do lunches and there are those who do triathlons.

Although I admit I am part of the lunch crowd, I spent one weekend in the great outdoors and bravely joined the 10th Subic Bay International Triathlon. With sheer guts and sheer ignorance, I entered into a competition with the least amount of training and background. If I knew what the race entailed, I would have trained a lot more before joining.

The idea of doing a triathlon first came when I wrote about my climbing adventure to Mt. Pulag, which got so much positive e-mails. So writing on something with a similar angle was enticing and what better adventure than the epitome of athletic events itself—the triathlon. My cousin, **Jon-jon Rufino** had joined one in Anilao, Batangas and had told me about the forthcoming one at Subic.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, a triathlon is a competitive multi-sport race against time, involving three sports: swimming, biking and running, done in immediate succession. The goal is to complete the three sports in the shortest time possible. The transition periods and activities between heats are included in the total time. This means gearing up in between sports, being done as swift as a Formula 1 car getting its tires changed.

Training is everything. All three disciplines should be practiced with equal diligence. For the swimming, I did 30 laps in an Olympic pool (only once though) and played leap frog in the pool with my kids for an hour. A word of caution: Don't eat a burrito before lapping because you will surely have the taste of beans coming up your nose.

For the running, I ran 5k, which was five times around the Polo field (actual distance of the triathlon race is 10k). My son, **Bryan**, did the 5k with me in half my time, since I took an hour, but he marveled at my determination. For reading material, try "Jogging and Running for Dummies."

For the biking, I had zero work-out! I actually don't own a bike and the last time I got on one was on my Barbie pink bike in fifth grade. So for the Subic Triathlon, I decided to only do an Aquathon, a swim-run event.

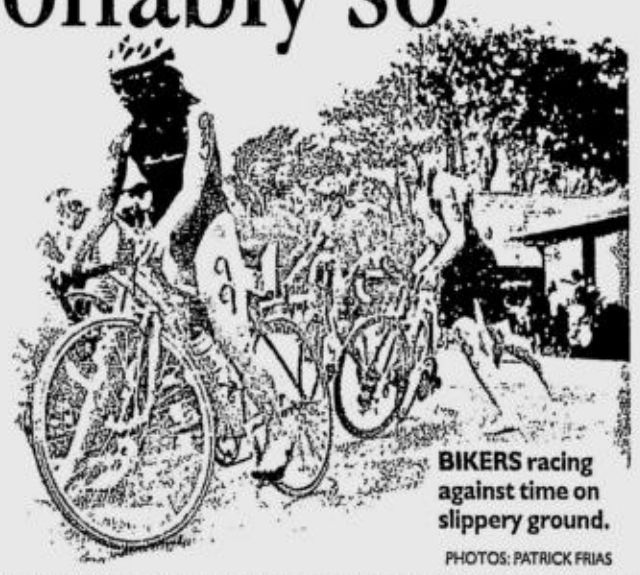
If I survived these two parts, then I would know completing a triathlon was doable for me.

The best part

Naturally, the best part of the training is shopping for gear. This time around, I did my

HOW/ J2

If you can't play, at least display!



BIKERS racing against time on slippery ground.

PHOTOS: PATRICK FRIAS

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How I survived the triathlon, fashionably so

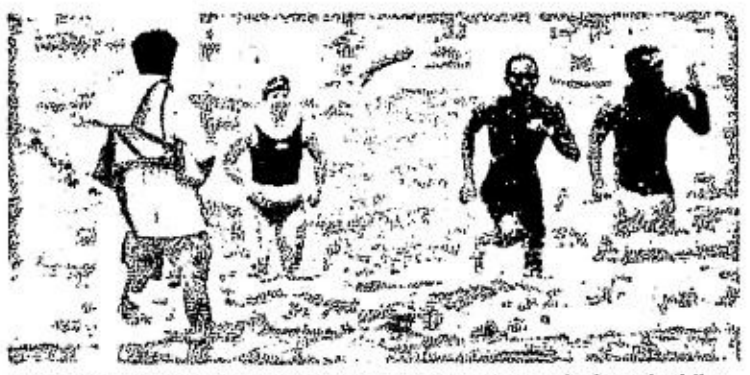
TEAM TRI-PURSUITS. Vic Muñoz, Mike Siapno, John Frias, Eric Imperio, Ricky Frias and Tofi Mendoza

YOUTHFUL running mate Nicanor Nicdao with Flip Corpus, my male counterpart

TRIATHLETE on a break: Mon Marchan

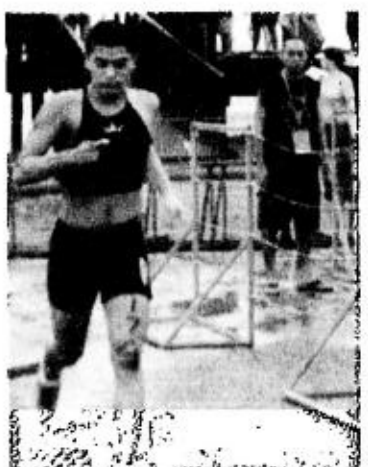
SUBIC Bay Yacht Club's main man Jose Mari Vargas

ALL buffed up: Rick Yupangco



MURKY AND ROUGH ENOUGH? Off to the shower before the bike race for me

GEARING up and strategy-planning: Flip Corpus, Raffy Ocampo, Antonio Ramos and Larry Ocampo



YOUTH HAS ITS ADVANTAGE. Third-placer Rafa Valdes

AFTER A PRIOR bike mishap, Jon-jon Rufino tries again on his Giant bike

From page J1

research in the Rockwell mall. After a day of pampering at the Emphasis Salon, which included a leg wax for faster, sleeker movement (I did a bikini wax as well just in case the theory was true), it was off to the mall for panic-buying.

Cool couple **Vincent** and **Eileen Grey** helped me with the selection of running shoes and other paraphernalia.

Timothy, the sales person of Nike Stadium, was so knowledgeable of the tech side of the shoes that I almost bought a shoe based on the features and not the overall external look. I compromised with a great running shoe with outstanding support, the Nike Shox. Well, all I really cared about was that the color matched my dri-fit Nike top and dangling earrings.

Next stop was Planet Sports for the swimsuit competition. I was going to wear my Wolford red two-piece bikini which I bought from Wish, but the waves might blow my top away and the padding might weigh me down. So, **Eileen** and I argued over a tankini top and bottom by Arena, sexy yet athletic-looking. I just wished they would allow full wetsuits so I could camouflage my thunder thighs, but apparently, wetsuits were not allowed.

In the accessory department, I went through careful screening of my pieces which had the lightest weight with the best visual impact. I separated a set for my swim heat (neon waterproof bracelet, two-toned Speedo swim cap and pink goggles). I prepared my sarong and beach slippers to wear for the few meters run from shore to the transition area. And for the actual 10k run, multi-layered pearls strung in neon nylon and lime green dangling earrings, my funky Swatch watch and a neon pink cap. If the awful weather had only been better, I would have run with my blonde wig.

If you can't play, at least display! That's my triathlon credo.

With my suitcase ready for an overnight stay, Jon-jon and I headed for Subic the day before the race to register and settle into the Subic Bay Yacht Club, where we bumped into its managing director, **Jose Mari Vargas**.

Looks are deceiving

After I registered and received #543 (last entry with zero credentials), Jon-jon and I checked out the bike accessories of Cycle Zone and got their card so I could shop there in the event I really decide to become a full-time triathlete. Their shop is in Greenhills, which is in the Philippines and therefore within shopping distance.

After window-shopping, we proceeded to the complimentary pasta dinner. With the amount of workout these triathletes do, their carbo seems to be burning constantly even while just standing around. Definitely no Atkins dieters here.

Athletes move, stand and dress the same way. So, when I entered the room, a lady approached me

> With my neon waterproof bracelet, layered pearls strung in neon nylon, lime green dangling earrings and funky Swatch watch, I was off

and asked if I was a sponsor. With a slight look of horror, I said no and proceeded to enter. The same lady then said that non-participants would have to pay for the meal.

Didn't I look like one of the triathletes? Just because I was wearing a feather hairclip, dangling earrings, beaded necklace and floral pants? Just because I didn't possess the lean, firm bodies of just about everyone in the room? But, hey, I was a registered, full-fledged triathlete, even for just this one weekend.

Sleeping early is a challenge for nocturnal creatures like me so I was afraid I wasn't even going to wake up in time for the competition. But my buddy made sure I was awake, fed and in my suit in time for the sound of the gunshot, at which point we raced to the super murky, rough open sea.

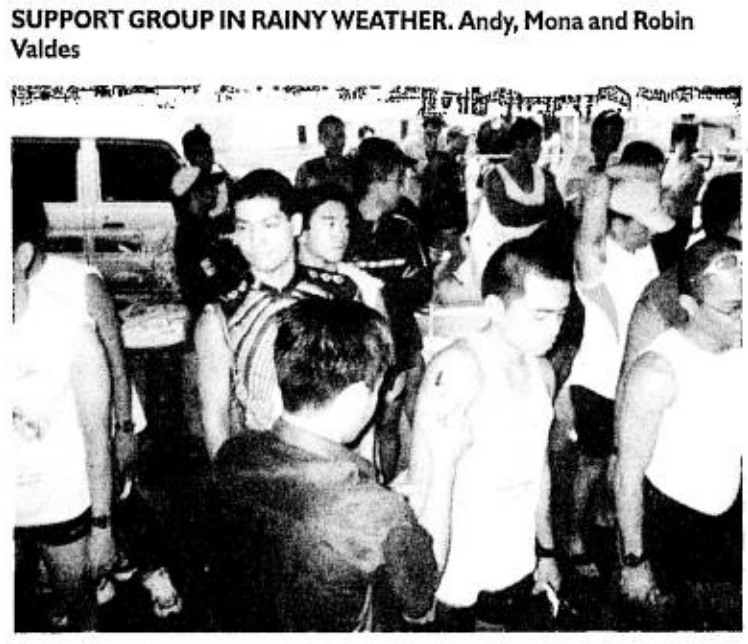
Muddy race

Standing and debating whether to get into the water, I finally gathered enough guts when the pack was meters ahead. After completing the swim, which felt like I was lapping through mud, I waved to the spectators as I headed to the transition area. Since I had no bike, I just chatted with **Mon Marchan** of Metro Adventure & Recreation Club and waited for the majority to finish the bike segment. Around this time, I did my 20-minute transition change and donned my lightweight accessories. Watching the elite group move from swim to bike to run is like watching a well-orchestrated procession. I noticed a good-looking runner and realized it was my nephew, **Rafa Valdes**, who eventually placed third in the youth division.

When Mon said it was a good time to start my run, I made sure all my accessories and waterproof makeup were in order. Again greeting the well-wishers, I started my 10k run. Mimicking the rest, I drank a lot of water while running and tried to spit in the air. But after the first round, I had to stop, use the toilet and eat a power bar—but not simultaneously of course! I actually wonder if serious triathletes even stop to relieve themselves during the bike or run.

The race was just so full of people that I never expected to be there. While I was running, I was shocked to hear someone calling

SUPPORT GROUP IN RAINY WEATHER. Andy, Mona and Robin Valdes



NUMBERING the participants

FITNESS IN ALL LEVELS. Rune Stroem, a resident Norwegian, Andy Aguila and salon king David Charlton

POWER tools to get ahead

IRONMAN finisher (in 14 hours and 3 minutes) in Australia, John Frias

TRIATHLON addict Ricky Frias

out, "Ma'am, Ma'am." I turned and saw **Roy Adeva** of the INQUIRER billing department zipping past me. I'm glad to see the INQUIRER folks like to keep in shape, too!

As I went through a water station, I saw **Ricky Ledesma**, our high school prom king, watching the race. Naturally, this was a good time to stop and catch up on old times, as well as catch my breath of course. Ricky said he was shocked to see me in the race. Maybe he was wondering if I was the muse.

As I was completing my last lap, I happened to chance upon the doctors on call and asked if they would give me mouth-to-mouth resuscitation so I could run faster. Pacing side by side with me was **Nicanor Nicado**, a 64-year-old former lifeguard and a veteran triathlete. But for now, also my running date. I was so inspired not to stop thanks to him that before I knew it, we had both completed the run.

Crossing that finish line was an adrenalin rush. Although I clocked an embarrassing three hours plus, plus, I had fun, made so many friends, got so much encouragement from the spectators and was the most photographed, thanks to **Patrick Frias** who was there to photograph his two brothers who were entered in the competition.

After killing all my cellulite (hopefully) and realigning my sore muscles in Urban Spa, I am now looking forward to really completing my first triathlon, this time including the cycling event. All I need is a cute trainer to get me totally inspired. Any volunteers? If so, you can mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

'Peace' orchestra has special strings repertoire for 3rd concert

From page J4

misses any concert or cultural event.

The PPP Chamber Players opened the concert with a Prelude and Fugue on the theme of "Bahay Kubo," by **Angel Peña**. Then came **Antonin Dvorak's** "Serenade in E Major." One could almost hear the audience humming the first movement.

In the second, waltz-like movement, Ingrid, who was seated beside me, whispered it was just like hearing the famed Philadelphia Strings. That was how well Professor Molina was conducting. The third movement, a challenging one for any conductor because of its changing moods, was superb.

The **Carl Stamitz** Viola Concerto in D featured **Gerry Varona** as soloist. From 1770 to the onset of the French Revolution, Stamitz was court composer in Paris. The viola concerto was one of his 50 symphonies, 60 concertos and over 50 symphonies concertantes.

Three soloists

Everyone loved the variations on "Winter," a free adaptation by **Danny Seidenberg** of the famous concerto from Vivaldi's suite "Four Seasons." There were three soloists—**Brian Cimafranca**, **Rey Lecciones** and **Varona**—for the three movements dubbed "Thin Ice," "Texas Rain" and "Snow What?"

There was more to delight the audience in the finale: Professor Molina's own arrangement of three famous musical pieces by the Beatles. Brian was soloist for "Hard Day's Night," **Sara Maria Gonzalez** for "Michelle" and **Melissa Cypress** for "Lady Madonna." For an encore, the orchestra did "Thin Ice."

Right after the concert, Ingrid left for California for two recitals in the Los Angeles area. She will be back by June 12 and will embark on her sixth national concert tour with Maryland-based Filipino pianist **Reynaldo Reyes**. They will start in Zambales, and hold concerts all over Luzon in the days that follow. Sometimes they will give two performances in a day.

The tour takes them to Subic, Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Cabanatuan, Bulacan and Manila in venues like San Agustin Church, Hospicio de San Jose, University of the East, Far Eastern University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Centro Escolar University, International Christian Academy, Concert in the Park, and Philippine Normal University. She just might be in Tacloban on July 1 or 2 when the PPP plays there.

Piano Duo

A musical event of the first water was the Piano Duo performance by **Sivan Silver** and **Gil Garburg** presented at the City Sports Club ballroom by the Embassy of Israel and the Arts Council. Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba** came to Cebu for this, with Consul **Ziba Somech**.

She hosted a pre-concert reception attended by Arts Council trustees led by president **Petite Garcia**, and graced by Cebu City Mayor **Tommy Osmeña**.

Before the performance, Ambassador **Ben Abba** spoke about the celebration of Israel's 55th anniversary as an independent state and recalled how the Philippine vote in the United Nations helped bring about this significant event. The concert that followed was a marvelous listening experience.

Sivan and Gil, each playing on a grand piano, were admirably synchronized for the Mozart Sonata in D major. Both pianos seemed to sing to each other. Next was the **Alexander Borodin** "Polovstian Dances" from the opera "Prince Igor." Of course, everyone recognized in it the song "Stranger in Paradise" adapted for the Broadway musical "Kismet."

After the interval, Sivan and Gil shared the same piano for Schubert's Fantasia in F, expressly written for four hands. This is a full-bodied outpouring of genius by Schubert, then in the tertiary stage of syphilis, and practically on his death bed with typhoid.

Brief and delightfully modern was Semitic Suite by **Alexander Uroyah Boskovich**, regarded as the father of modern Israeli music. He was born in Transylvania in 1907 and moved to Israel in the 1930s, where he died in 1964.

AFTER the PPP concert—Prof. Jeffrey Solares, Prof. Arturo Molina, former Cebu Mayor Ron Duterte, Ingrid Sala Santamaria, Christiane Wasfy and Leyte Governor Matin Petilla

PPP soloist Brian Cimafranca

AT THE PIANO Duo recital—Teresing Mendezona, Annie Osmeña Aboitiz and Vivina Yrastorza, president of the Philippine-Israel Business Association, Cebu chapter

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'Peace' orchestra has special strings repertoire for 3rd concert

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE PIANO Duo of Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg and Cebu Arts Council president Petite Garcia

THE PEACE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) presented its third concert of the season, "Summer Strings Special." It was presented at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel. **Prof. Arturo Molina** conducted brilliantly, undoubtedly inspired by the presence of his pretty wife **Heidi**, who was in the front row.

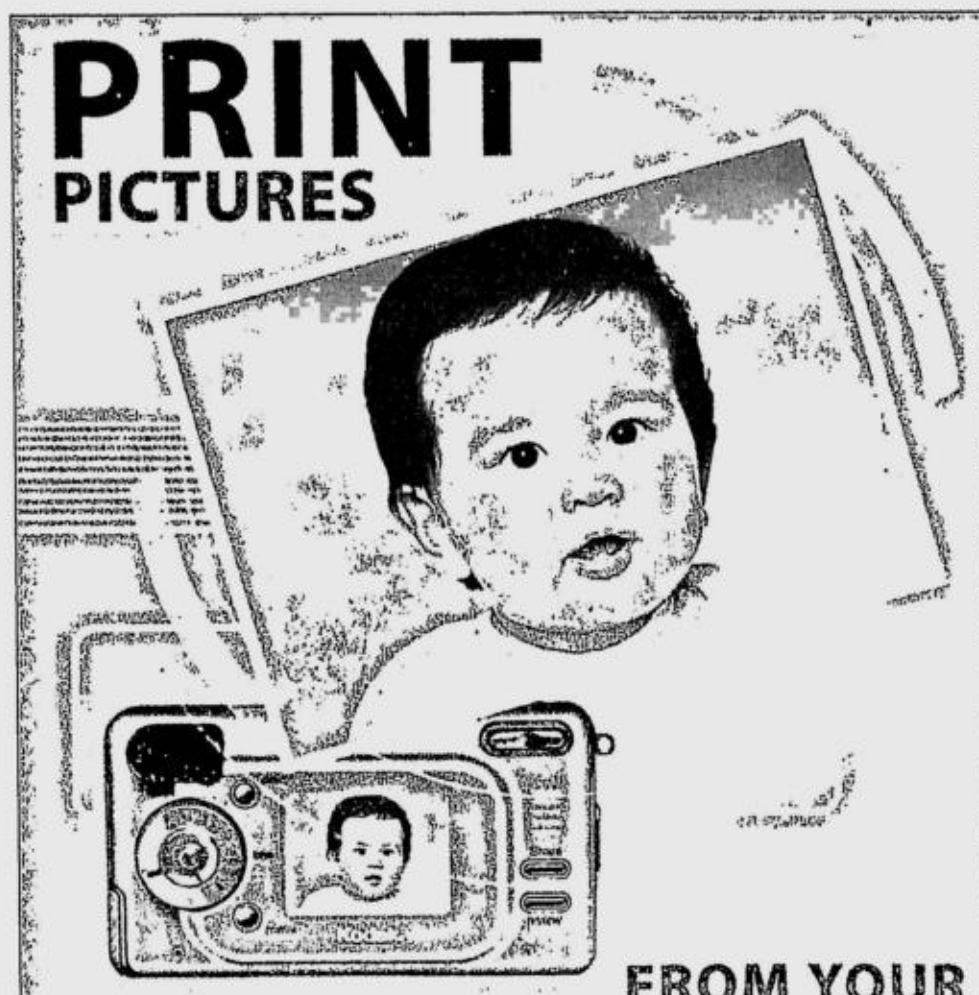
Ingrid Sala Santamaria, looking svelte after shedding 32 pounds in the last six months, was dazzling in an aqua *terno*, as she welcomed Leyte's Governor **Remedios Petilla** and her sister **Socorro Emnas**, who arrived from Tacloban the day before.

Many members of Ingrid's family were present as well, like Sweden's Consul **Jose Sala** and his wife **Susan**, who is president of the Sala Foundation; Ingrid's daughter **Cecile Nubla** with her **Christina** and **Bianca**; **Juan** and **Josie Sala**, and **Rosebud Sala** and daughter **Marvi**, both very fashionably dressed.

Also seen: **Emelita La O de Borromeo**, Southwestern University's **Lydia Aznar Alfonso**, University of Southern Philippines president **Ron Duterte**, **Angeling Labucay Escaño**, who was seated with **Ma. Pilar Escaño**, **Darwin** and **Socorro Lappana**, violinist **Celia Alix** and **Chinggay Utzurrum** with **Kingsley Medalla**, who never

'PEACE'/ J3

PRINT PICTURES



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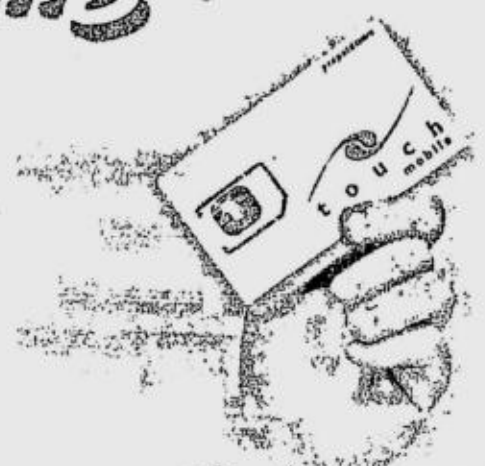

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Reporting to the Area Coordinator and **based in MAGUINDANAO or LANAO DEL SUR**, the staff shall:
1) Provide technical assistance to the Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA), Peace and Development Advocates (PDAs), Community Development Managers, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), People's Organizations (POs) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) in community development planning and investment programming, resource mobilization, networking and linkaging, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) and other post-conflict areas;
2) Facilitate convergence of development assistance from GOP-UN/MDP3 Government Organizations (GOs), NGOs and ODAs in the PDCs and other post-conflict areas;
3) Facilitate promotion of the culture of volunteerism by organizing more volunteer activities in their area of assignment in collaboration with the UNV County Office in Manila;
4) Prepare periodic reports to the Area Coordinator relative to the GOP-UN/MDP3 and other development activities in their respective areas of assignment; and
5) Perform other tasks assigned by the Area Coordinator.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in social-science disciplines; minimum two (2) years experience in community development in Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) and other post-conflict areas in Mindanao; experience on participatory development planning process and governance, with good knowledge on culture of peace and traditional systems of resolving conflicts in the PDCs, networking and linkaging, right-based and results-based management, project cycle management (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation); and must be computer-literate.

Preferably applicants should come from Mindanao, are familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines, and able to converse and write in any of the Maguindanaoan or Maranaw dialects. All application letters with comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before **15 June 2003**. Address applications to the United Nations Volunteers, Room 210, 2/F NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail); Fax no. +63-2-812-8657; email to beatriz.fernandez@undp.org. **UNV will only contact shortlisted applicants.**

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Is in need of
FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Female, Excellent Sales Communication Skills, Experienced, Part/Full Time
Up to P30T monthly income
Bring Biodata, Mon-Sat, 11:00 a.m. onwards
G/F Estuar Bldg., 41 Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 374-7011 to 13

SOUSE CHEF, COOK, BARTENDER
Send Resumé to: Ricco-Renzo Galleries & Bistro 898-2545, ricco_renzo@yahoo.com
LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel Air, Makati

Mandaluyong City Medical Center
Dept. of Internal Medicine
now accepting
Medical Residents
for its 3 year accredited training program
call 533-2383

JICA

国際協力事業団フィリピン事務所
Japan International Cooperation Agency
Philippine Office

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a government agency responsible in extending technical cooperation under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Programs.

JICA, an active partner in the pursuit of socioeconomic development in the Philippines, is looking for a young and competent staff to join its organization as:

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

The staff will be working with Japanese counterpart and shall assist in document preparation, coordination and negotiation with government officials necessary for identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of JICA's various technical cooperation programs. The person may also be assigned in other posts within the same office, such as program management and office administration in the future, depending on his/her performance and competency.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of 4-year university course or its equivalent
- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- With at least 3-years minimum experience in Project Management and Public Relations work.
- Proficient with basic computer skills including use of word processing, spreadsheets and database software.
- Good interpersonal skills, adaptability/flexibility and willingness to learn

In behalf of JICA, Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc. (TTT-ICI) will handle this recruitment as part of our subcontracting agreement. All applicants must submit their Curriculum Vitae on or before JUNE 18, 2003 to TTT-ICI's office at: Unit-E Lower Ground Floor Westgate Tower Investment Drive Madrigal Business Park Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City or E-mail to tttici@axtl.com or fax to 772-1889.

(ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES SHALL BE CALLED FOR AN INTERVIEW)

SM SUPERMALLS
DAVAO

WE ARE LOOKING...

for a proactive management professional who is customer-oriented and computer-literate with excellent communication skills to join our DAVAO CITY team as:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- Graduate of Bachelors Degree in Human Resource Management, Behavioral Science or its equivalent;
- Has had 8 to 10 years hands-on experience in all aspects of Human Resource Management in a dynamic organization, 5 years of which should have been in a managerial or supervisory capacity;
- Extensive working knowledge of the Philippine Labor Law;
- Willing to work long hours and work under pressure.

Interested parties may send resume with 2"x 2" recent ID picture to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
SM Corporate Offices, Bldg. B
1000 Bay Blvd., Central Business Park Bay City, Pasay City
E-mail to: jmm@smsupermalls.com

Asia United Bank

The Bank of Choice

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team as:

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Successful hires will be responsible in account solicitation and selling of retail consumer finance products
- Ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least three (3) years of experience, preferably selling consumer related products
- Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate

REMITTANCE MARKETING OFFICER

- He/she will be responsible for the overall introduction, marketing and sales promotion of the Bank's remittance program to the existing and prospective foreign correspondents/tie-ups worldwide
- Ideal candidates are Business/Managerment graduates with at least five (5) years of experience in the remittance business of a bank
- Must have full knowledge of remittance operations, processes, regulations and product features.
- Selling and supervisory skills. Excellent interpersonal skills. Computer literate

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- Successful candidates will provide administrative and clerical support to the Account Officers. He/she will assist in servicing and maintenance of accounts
- Must be a graduate of a four (4) year course, preferably business
- Excellent customer service orientation. Good written/verbal communication skills. Computer literate

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m - 5:30 p.m. or mail/ e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
www.asiaunited.com.ph
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Center
Dona Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph

Philippine Business for Social Progress

We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations. Since 1970, we have been committed to making a strategic contribution to improve the quality of life of the under privileged Filipinos by promoting business sector commitment to social development and harnessing resources for innovative programs that lead to self-reliance and sustainable development.

The Corporate Volunteers for Enterprise Development (CVED) Program seeks to contribute to the development of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) by mobilizing from the business sector volunteer employees who are willing and able to provide business advising services to MSEs. This volunteer business advising program is a partnership between Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO) and PBSP-Small and Medium Enterprise Credit (SMEC).

To implement this 3-year program the following positions are being offered:

PROGRAM MANAGER

Reporting directly to the Associate Director for Small and Medium Enterprise Credit, the person will be responsible for developing customized strategies and effective plans to mobilize employees from the private sector as volunteer business advisors and match their skills with the business needs of small enterprises under a systematic yet flexible arrangement. The candidate will put together policies and procedures and identify key indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. He/she will manage the daily operations, supervising the program management team operating in Manila, Pampanga, Cebu and Davao.

The candidate must have had considerable exposure to small business management and operations; expertise in business development service (BDS), business counseling, and diagnostic skills and broad alliances with SME-oriented organizations would be an advantage. He/she must be very people-oriented, results driven and a self-starter, possessing above average leadership and communication skills. He/she must be willing to travel.

AREA MANAGER

Using proven diagnostic skills, the candidate will assess and validate the particular needs of the small enterprise-client which shall be the basis for the selection of an employee volunteer business adviser. The candidate will assist in the promotion of the program, identification and recruitment of small enterprise-clients and in the generation of applications from these clients. He/she shall manage the process of deployment of volunteer business advisors in their assigned areas, including monitoring of assignments in progress and following through the workplan agreed between the volunteer advisor and small enterprise-client. He/she will report directly to the program manager. The position will be based in Cebu but will also require travel to Bohol.

To qualify the candidate must have a strong orientation and exposure to SMEs, acquired by working with the sector from some 5-7 years; expertise in business development services an advantage; possesses skills in diagnosing impediments to small businesses' growth; above average oral and written communication skills; willing to travel. He/she must be innovative, fast learner, results-oriented and can work with very minimal supervision.

Kindly forward your resumé, copy of diploma, TOR and photo to

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
3/F Philippine Social Development Center
Magallanes cor. Real Sts. Intramuros, Manila
Tel: 527-7741 to 51 Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph

We are a hi-tech multi national sales, engineering and services company who needs a highly motivated individual to fill the position of

VICE PRESIDENT for SALES

He will be responsible for the general direction of sales and marketing as well as direct supervision of Sales Managers to ensure profitability of the different sales departments.

We offer:

- A rewarding compensation package
- Travel opportunity
- Car plan
- And a whole range of benefits

If you are:

- Male, preferably in his mid 40's.
- With experience in handling Sales and Marketing Departments, and preferably with background in all facets of an organization
- Computer literate, preferably w/ MBA course or units and
- Can work well with different levels of the organization.

You may submit your Comprehensive Resumé on or before June 13, 2003 to:

BOX NO. 200
c/o PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Oxford Suites

Oxford Suites Makati is the leading 4-star hotel in the Makati Business District. We offer excellent value for money, creative promotion with attractive prices, strategic location and a professional team that has gained sound reputation in the market.

We are looking for high caliber candidates
to join our professional team as SALES MANAGER.

Reporting to the Hotel Manager, the candidate will be accountable for the performance of the sales team and aggressively explore & identify opportunities for busines development. You will lead in the formulation of the sales & marketing plan and ensure its effective implementation and execution. As a key member of the Management team, you are required to motivate and develop the sales team in support of business objectives
The successful candidate profile is:

- College graduate with a minimum sales experience of 3 years.
- Self-motivated, energetic and have a passion for innovation.
- Strong customer service orientation.
- Strong analytical, leadership & communication skills.
- Responsive to change, with speed and accuracy.
- Results-oriented.

Please send your resume quoting reference SM-052003 to:
The Hotel Manager, Oxford Suites Makati Hotel
Durban cor P. Burgos Sts, Makati City 1200

Ph 899 7888 Fx 899 6891 Email veronica@oxfordsuitesmakati.com
visit our website at www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com

Small and dynamic law office looking for:

LAWYERS OR LAW GRADUATES

Qualifications:

- **Male or Female**
- **Graduate of Bachelor of Laws**
- **Proficient in written and oral communication**
- **Eager to really practice law**

Send Application, detailed resumé and Transcript of Records to:

P.O. Box 2908
Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Aircon & Ref. Technician

- With 5 years experience as ref/aircon technician
- 25 - 38 years old
- Metro Manila resident

Secretary

- Computer literate

Interested applicant should bring their resumé with 2x2 picture at:

409 Clavel St., Binondo Manila
Tel. No. 243-4491/243-7303 look for Mr. or Ms. Cu

We are one of the leading international service providers for the private and public sectors.
We invite highly-motivated and customer-oriented professionals,
who seek career in the call center industry,
to fill-in the following employment requirements:

TEAM LEADERS
Code: TL

- Male/Female; at least 24 years old
- Finished at least 2nd year college level or any 2-year course
- With good diction, voice quality and excellent oral & written communication skills in English
- With at least 1 year similar experience gained from a call center environment
- With strong leadership qualities and effective motivational & people management skills
- Willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in MS Applications

Experience from Accenture, Ambergris, Citiphone Banking, Customer Contact Center, E-telecare, Infonxx, Q-Interaction, RMH, Sykes Asia or Teredyne is a decided advantage.

An attractive compensation package awaits those who will be considered for employment.

CALL CENTER AGENT
(Outbound Calls)
Code: CCA-OC

- Male/Female; at least 19 years old
- Finished at least 2nd year college level or any 2-year course
- With good diction, voice quality and excellent oral & written communication skills in English
- With customer service orientation
- Preferably with background in sales or telemarketing gained from a call center environment
- With strong selling & negotiation skills
- Willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in MS Applications

Applicants must express their interest in any of these positions by strictly complying with and submitting the following documents:

- Letter of application indicating the code of the position on the upper right hand corner of the letter
- Comprehensive résumé with three (3) passport-sized colored photographs containing the following: a) Personal Background b) Educational Background c) Professional Background [work experience] d) Technical Training Background and e) References. Your résumé must be prepared in a short bond paper using Sans Serif Font and Font Size 11.
- University-authenticated transcript of records

You may mail these to the box address indicated below:

Country Human Resources & Organization Development Group
BOX MK-22 c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Atrium Ground Floor, Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City

You may also e-mail us at ***jm_client9@inq7.net.***

Other employment requirements include the following:

General Manager & Vice-President
Director for Quality
Call Center Manager
HR Manager
IT Manager
Operations Manager
Office Manager
Sales Managers
Shift Sales Managers
Verification Manager
LAN/Support Engineer
Station Support Engineer
Telecoms Support Engineer
Trainer/Recruiter
Quality Associate
Verification Associate

MAGSAYSAY TRAINING CENTER
Hospitality Services and Culinary Arts Department

ONLY THE BEST IN HOTEL CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PUTS YOU ABOVE THE REST!

Upgrading Courses:

- Dining Room Steward Course
- Housekeeping Steward Course
- Bar Steward Course
- Galley Steward Course
- Restaurant Service Training
- Housekeeping Service Training
- Galley Service Training
- Shipboard Familiarization and Basic Communication Skills
- Front Office Service Training
- Caregiver Service Training
- Foreign Languages

For information, please contact:

- Magsaysay Training Center 6th Floor, Times Plaza, U.N. cor. Taft Avenues, Ermita Manila Tel No. (632) 526-1588
- 2nd Floor, Shipping Center Bldg., A. Soriano Jr. St. (fronting Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila Tel No. (632) 528-4723
- 2nd Floor Magsaysay Bldg., 520 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Tel No. (632) 526-8888 loc 9405
- Magsaysay Call Center Tel No. (632) 526-9708

The largest and leading LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE WORLD invites applicants for the following positions:

Accounting Supervisor

- Male/Female, 27-31 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- At least 3 years experience in the application of accounting principles, practices, procedures and financial reporting in a life insurance company
- Updated knowledge and application of tax regulations and requirements for a life insurance company
- Proficient in technical and business writing skills
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision.

Accountant

- Male/Female 30 years old or below
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- At least 2 years work experience in life insurance accounting especially bank reconciliation and accounting of policy related transactions.
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision.

System Analyst/Programmer

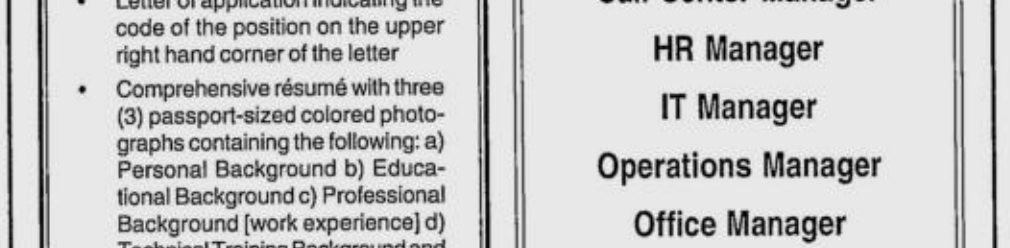
- Male/Female, 23 – 27 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or its equivalent course
- Solid two (2) to three (3) years programming experience in AS/400 environment, specializing in RPG/400 and COBOL/400
- System Analysis and Design skills
- Working experience in AS/400 utilities (SQL/400, DFU/400, SEU/400, Query/400, etc.)
- Working experience in systems documentation development
- Proficient technical writing skills
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision

Training Assistant

- Male/Female, 22 – 27 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Business Administration, preferably with background in training and development.
- At least 1-3 years work experience in developing modules or conducting training in sales and marketing particularly in insurance business
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision

We offer an attractive salary and competitive benefit package to the selected candidate. Interested applicants may submit, fax or E-mail their resume with recent 2X2 colored picture not later than June 16, 2003 at:

NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
21ST F Tower 2 RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City Fax No. 7532161
E-mail: p.regio@nipponlife-phil.com.ph



SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, and the leading professional services firm in the country, invites suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

Recruitment Supervisor

- Preferably a graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Single, not more than 35 years old
- With at least (5) years' extensive experience in recruitment process
- Proficient in Microsoft Word/Excel/Powerpoint
- A team player and able to work in a dynamic environment
- Willing to travel around the country, as necessary

Executive Assistant

- Bachelor's degree holder, preferably of a business-related course
- Female, 22 to 29 years old
- Proficient in typing and familiar with MSOffice programs (Word, Excel & Powerpoint)
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- With at least one year experience

Administrative Staff

- Graduate of any business-related course
- Between 22 and 27 years old
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Powerpoint/Excel/Word
- With good scholastic records
- With excellent command of English language
- Possesses a pleasing personality

Competitive compensation, benefits and world-class training and professional growth await successful applicants. To apply, email your resume to sgvhrd@ph.ey.com or mail to:

Human Resources Group
5F, SGV 1 Bldg.
6760 Ayala Ave.
Makati City, Philippines

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA

MADRE IGNACIA AVE., GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY, 1400, PHILIPPINES
Tel. 361-7435 loc. 101/102 (DIR) • 361-7310 loc. 124 (GS) • 366-6331 loc. 111 (HS)
366-6332 loc. 118 (Records) • 366-6330 loc. 131 (DMSTC)

WANTED

1. TEACHERS

*Computer Technician Course
- Graduate of BS ECE/BS Computer Engineering/Vocational Graduate of Computer Technician Course
- Knowledge in troubleshooting of computers (hardware)
- Teaching experience, an advantage

*English
- B.S. Education graduate major in English
- LET Passer

2. SECRETARIES
- B.S. Secretarial Administration graduate/related courses
- 20-30 years old, Male or Female, computer literate

3. AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNICIAN
- B.S. Electronics & Communications Engineering graduate

APPLY PERSONALLY:

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA
Madre Ignacia Avenue, Grace Park, 1400 Caloocan City
Tel. No. 361-7435 loc. 101

BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio-Data, Handwritten application letter, SSS #, TIN, ID picture (1x1)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A. TRAILER DRIVER
B. WAREHOUSE IN-CHARGE
C. SERVICEMAN

1. With experience
2. 25 to 35 years of age
3. Willing to work long hours
4. With good moral character

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person at:

No. 4 Seminary Road,
Edsa, Quezon City
Near FORD - Edsa, Balintawak

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
(For Immediate Hiring)

- College Graduates (Preferably w/ Engineering Background)
- Energetic and Hardworking
- Good Oral and Written Communication Skills

Please apply in person and bring your resumé at:

HYTRUCK MACHINERIES PHILS., INC.
2682 Gen. Cailles Street, Bangkal, Makati City
Tel # : 843-3251 / 843-3394

Isis International-Manila, is a thirty-year old international women's organisation dedicated to women's information and communication needs in the Asia-Pacific region. It advocates and creates opportunities for women's voices to be heard, strengthens feminist analysis and promotes solidarity and support to the women's movement and to other social justice movements across the globe. It conducts research and training programmes to strengthen women's use of media, information and communication technologies. Isis International-Manila invites qualified applicants with strong roots in the Asia-Pacific region for the position of

ISIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION:

A. ***Overall Direction-Setting and Strengthening;*** Impacts and enhances Isis' work through the following:
- Is recognized and commands respect regionally and internationally and can bring a feminist perspective derived from active involvement in the women's movement to Isis analyses and advocacies
- Must see info-com as a key issue in the women's movement and has extensive experience as an information-communication activist and advocate at the regional and international levels
- Commitment to a South analysis, to South-South cooperation and to linking with the broader social justice movement
- Can represent the interests, principles and political positions of the organisation and has the creativity and vision to guide Isis strategic direction-setting
- Political skills to enhance Isis position as a relevant international organisation located in the South

B. ***Fundraising and Networking;*** enhances Isis' sustainability and leadership through:
- Proven track-record in fundraising to create and implement a long-range fundraising and sustainability plan for Isis
- Strong networks in the region and at the international level for effective fundraising and for opening doors for Isis as a leader in media and info-com advocacy
- Excellent writing and public speaking skills and a good communicator in diverse milieu

C. ***Management and Coordination;*** ensures efficient management and accountability within Isis through:
- Five years of management experience in a women's programme/organisation including supervision, delegation and conflict resolution skills
- Ability to work with policy-making bodies such as Isis' General Membership and the Board of Trustees
- Financial management skills
- Skills in developing realistic plans and programmes to operationalise Isis' vision, mission and goals
- Basic understanding of information communication technology such as management and facilitation of mailing lists, web design and construction, local area networks and internet services and broadcast media
- Strong background in publications
- Ability to create an environment where learning and critical feedback are a part of the work culture

Personal Qualities:
- Feminist leader with a personal commitment to social justice who motivates and inspires by example
- Promotes respect for cultural diversity and tolerance within a non-partisan and secular workplace
- Open to receiving feedback and criticism and demonstrates the ability to change and be flexible
- Consultative and transparent in decision-making; encourages staff participation and consensus
- Is organised, manages her time well and functions well under pressure
- Can adapt to living in a different culture and Third World urban conditions

Minimum Requirements:

* Bachelor's Degree * Five years management experience * Fluent in written and oral English plus one other language from the Asia-Pacific region

Additional Benefits for Expatriates:

A modest relocation package and benefits in addition to the monthly salary including: * monthly salary payable in US$ and local currency * monthly housing allowance * lump-sum subsidy for furnishings * annual paid home leave * freight allowance during transfer

Interested parties please apply electronically by no later than **September 7, 2003**, with an application letter, resumé (5 pages only), three reference names with contact tel. nos., and recent photo to: **Isis International-Manila**, ed-apply@isiswomen.org

For inquiries you may e-mail us at isis@isiswomen.org

CRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (CRS-USCCB), Philippine Program is need of highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

GENERAL MANAGER

RISE Microfinance Company

based in Manila
Minimum Salary: P45,000 per month

The Responsible Investments for Solidarity and Empowerment (RISE) is a socially responsible microfinance institution that provides loans to poor but enterprising individuals in the Philippines. The General Manager will oversee the company's operations upon the direction of the Country Representative of CRS Philippines and the RISE Board of Directors.

His/Her responsibilities also include, but are not limited to, taking charge of fund sourcing through procurement of credit facilities with local and international, government and non-government institutions. The position will preside at meetings of stockholders preparing all necessary inputs in a complete, professional and timely manner. Likewise, he/she will report the status of company operations and finances at the end of a given fiscal year and will ensure compliance with all government-mandated reportorial requirements.

Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Business Administration with least four (4) years experience in managing microfinance programs such as Grameen Banking. Ability to develop microfinance proposals for funding a must.
- Demonstrable capacity and agility in financial analysis and the professional presentation of financial data.
- Strong network and linkages with government, non-government, and Church organizations, particularly those involved in the microfinance sector.
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel with ability to master other microfinance software quickly.
- Committed to development work; willing and able to travel extensively in remote areas and work independently with minimal supervision.

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

based in Davao City
Minimum Salary: P45,000 per month

The position will be responsible for assisting the Country Representative in managing program staff and operations in the areas of agriculture/natural resource management, health, microfinance, peace-building, and emergencies. He/She will conceptualize new strategies in collaboration with the Program Managers, drawing from CRS Guiding Principles, Catholic Social Teaching, and program quality standards. In addition, he/she will actively participate in Southeast, East Asia, and the Pacific Region (SEAPRO) program initiatives.

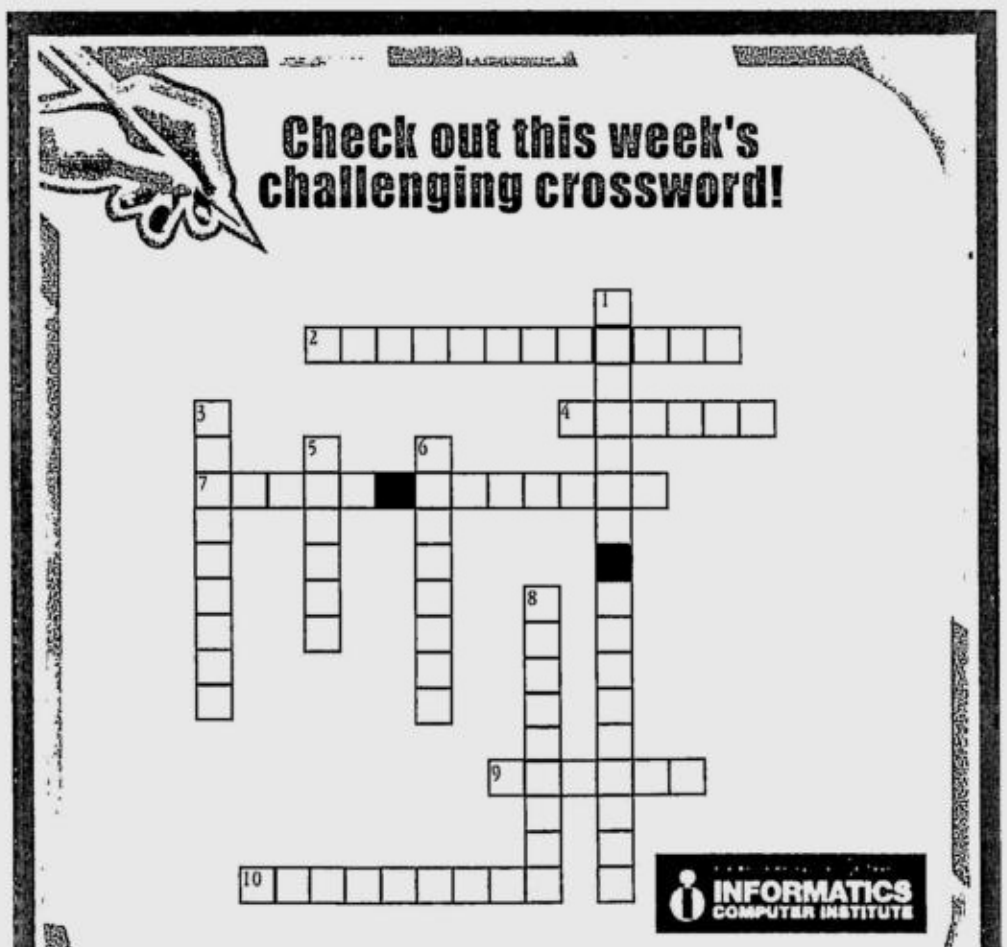
Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Management, Development Management, Business Administration, or related specialization. At least ten (10) years experience in managing and implementing social development programs.
- Excellent financial management skills, particularly centered on budget management from project, program, and country program perspectives.
- Committed to social development work. Can relate well to members of the Catholic hierarchy, Muslim religious leaders, government officials, and leaders of local/international non-government/private organizations.
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills particularly in the area of proposal writing.
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel. Able to travel in remote areas and work independently with minimal supervision.

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resumé with personal references via e-mail on or before **June 15, 2003** to:

THE HRA MANAGER
Catholic Relief Services-USCCB, Philippine Program
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail: **hr-admin@crs-org.ph**

(Only qualified applicants will be notified.)



Using the clues below, fill up the puzzle correctly and completely.
Then send it to **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER** Chino Roces Ave. Makati City or any **INQUIRER Branch**, along with your personal details for a chance to gift certificates from INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE.

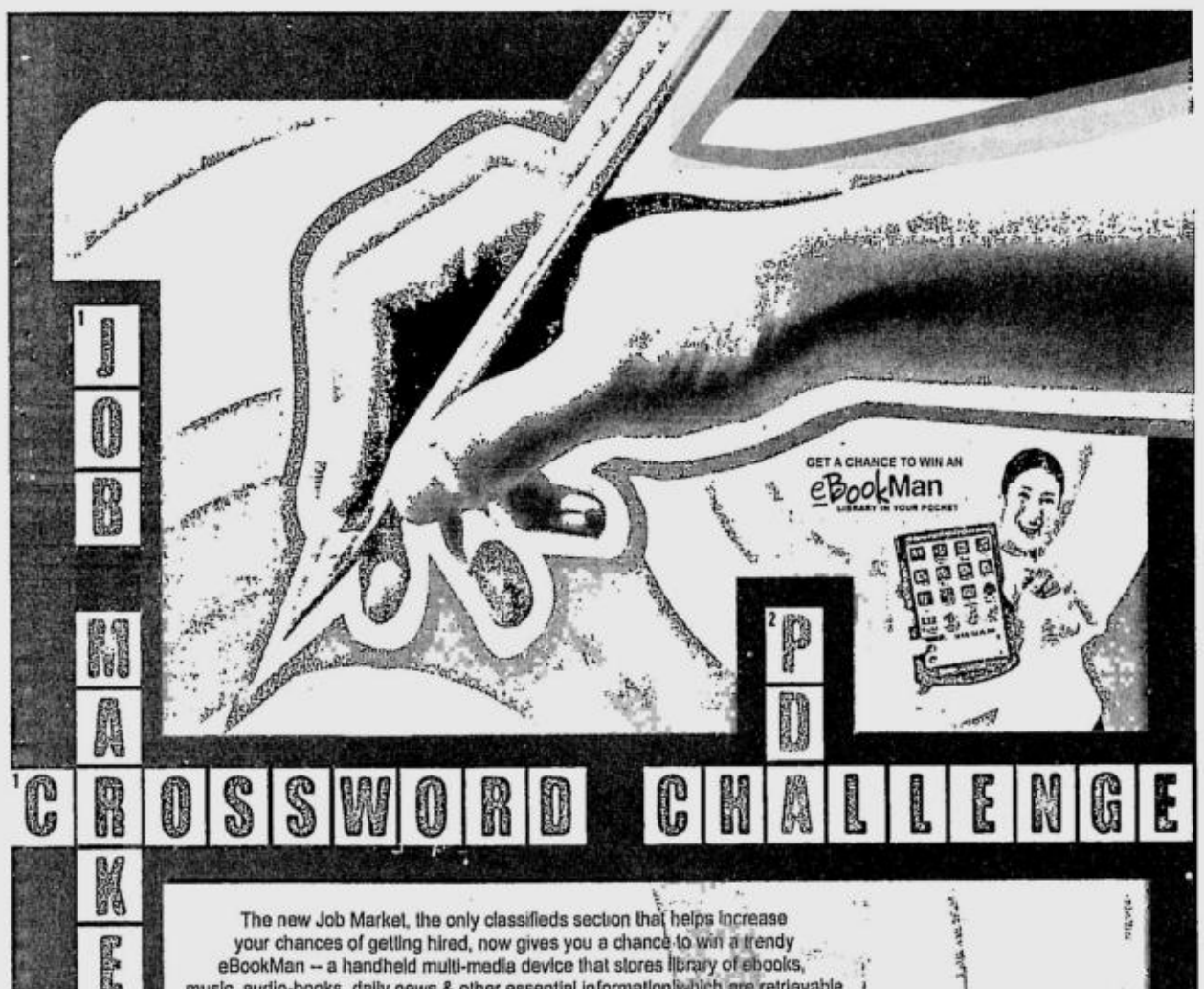
ACROSS
2 June 12 is Philippine ___ Day
4 Fiesta ___, Inc., manufacturer of processed coconut products (see p.09)
7 TASCO is looking for a ___ (see p.07)
9 ISIS Int'l ___, 30-yr-old Int'l Women's org (see p.04)
10 I am stressed, tired & ___ at work (see p.14)

DOWN
1 All skills require ___ & rules (see p.10)
3 Informatics Computer ___
5 Pennies from ___ (see p.12)
6 Everybody, ___, Anybody & Nobody (see p.14)
8 Nippon Life ___ Co. of the Phils, Inc. (see p.03)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL. NO. _____
SIGNATURE _____

INQUIRER inq7.net jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market Where you find the best.



The new Job Market, the only classifieds section that helps increase your chances of getting hired, now gives you a chance to win a trendy eBookMan -- a handheld multi-media device that stores library of ebooks, music, audio-books, daily news & other essential information which are retrievable at your fingertips...anytime. It also functions as a PDA and voice recorder. From April 20 to July 06, a crossword puzzle will appear every Sunday in the Job Market. Fill up the puzzle completely and correctly using the clues given. Every week, five (5) winners will be drawn in which each will receive gift certificates to reputable computer schools for courses that will boost your credentials when you apply for a job. All the weekly winners will then vie for an eBookMan in the two major grand draws on May 12 and July 6. So are you up to the challenge? Read the new Job Market Crossword Challenge!

INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE

Get more chances to win online! Simply visit www.jobmarketonline.com where the puzzle is posted from Monday to Thursday. Just print, fill up and send as many entries as you wish!

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promotion is open to all Inquirer Job Market readers nationwide as well as visitors of jobmarketonline. com.
2. For 12 consecutive Sundays (from April 20 to June 29) every Job Market issue will have a crossword puzzle cum entry form published on the section's 2nd page asking questions about the job placement ads and the editorial content of the Job Market. Each week will feature a different set of questions and puzzle.
3. Readers are tasked to complete the puzzle using the job placement ads and articles that come out in the same issue as clues, and write their name, address, telephone number and signature on the space provided for in the entry form.
4. The same puzzle, questions and entry form can also be found in the jobmarketonline website from Monday to Thursday of the following week.
5. To join through jobmarketonline, visitors must print out the puzzle/entry form found on the website and fill it up manually. Only printed versions of the said puzzle/entry form are valid. No photocopies allowed.
6. Puzzle/entry forms (newspaper cut-outs for print entries and computer print outs for website entries) must then be placed inside a white legal size envelope and mailed to "The Job Market Crossword Challenge" c/o Job Market, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue cor. Yague and Maecardo sts. 1230 Makati City. Each complete puzzle/entry form serves as a single official entry during which the winners (5) will be drawn every week to receive the following:

   Gift certificates from any of the following computer schools: NIIT, STI, Informatics, Genetics and New Horizon.
7. Only entries with complete & correct puzzles are considered valid. All entries for the week (provincial and GMA) must be received by 5pm Friday of the following week to qualify for the weekly draw to be held every Monday after the submission deadline.
8. There would be a total of twelve (12) weekly draws divided into two (2) phases, each comprise of four (4), the other seven (7) and one (1) grand draw.

   Raffle draw details are as follows:

DATE INCLUSIVE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	GRAND DRAW	VENUE
April 20 to May 4	May 9	May 12	Glorietta
May 18 to June 29	July 4	July 6	PDI Office

9. An individual may send more than one (1) entry (for both print and online entries) but may only win once in every weekly draw. Non-winning entries for each particular draw will be disqualified in the succeeding draw. All weekly draws will be held at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at 3.00 pm in the presence of a DTI rep.
10. Only the thirty (30) weekly draw winners will qualify for each of the 2 grand draws wherein one winner will receive the prize.
11. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
12. Winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. Name of the weekly winners will be published in the Job Market and posted in jobmarket online every week.
13. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and valid ID (driver's license, TIN,SSS or Passport.)
14. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
15. Employees & staff of PDI, their ad agency & their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity & affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

INQUIRER inq7.net jobmarketonline.com eBookMan

JOB Market Where you find the best.

The Chief Executive Officer of a multinational company is looking for a

Chef de Partie

with the following qualifications:

- With experience in a reputable restaurant, hotel or clubhouse
- Must be knowledgeable and skillful in menu planning, food preparation, party management from cocktails to sit down dinners for high-level executives and businessmen
- Would be willing to stay in

Interested applicants may send a Letter of Application and Resumé together with a recent 2x2 photograph, on or before 16 June 2003 to:

RND
P.O. Box 1096
Makati Central Post Office
Philippines

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING INC.

We are the local subsidiary of the world's largest consumer packaged goods company with a significant presence and market share in the Philippines. To further strengthen our operations we require highly qualified and motivated individuals to join our organization.

TERRITORY SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Code: TSR)
(To be assigned in Metro Manila and North Luzon)

Responsible for the development of the wholesaler and identified retail trade segment as a sustainable competitive advantage for the company by executing competitively advantageous, efficient, and effective merchandising and visibility strategies and trade programs.

Qualifications:
- A graduate of a reputable school with a degree in Business Administration major in Accountancy, Management, Economics, or Marketing or other business-related courses
- Credited with one year selling experience from a reputable consumer company; Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply
- Knows how to drive and possesses a professional driver's license
- An excellent team player with above average human relations and communication skills, able to work well with all levels of the organization
- Computer literate particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

DISTRICT SALES SUPERVISORS (Code: DSS)
(To be assigned in Metro Manila, Visayas, Southern and Central Luzon)

Responsible for ensuring the achievement of brand-specific volume objectives and agreed targets through the management of all relevant areas of the assigned distributor's operations. Also responsible for the management and development of the assigned geographic territory to maximize all available sales opportunities in all relevant general trade and key account channels.

Qualifications:
- A graduate of a reputable school with a degree in Business Administration major in Accountancy, Management, Economics, or Marketing or other business-related courses
- Credited with one year route-selling experience from a reputable consumer company and two years experience in handling distributors.
- Knows how to drive and possesses a professional driver's license
- An excellent team player with above average human relations and communication skills, able to work well with all levels of the organization
- Computer literate particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

We offer opportunities for career development and highly competitive remuneration.

If you are interested please send your comprehensive resume with recent 2 x 2 photo and transcript of records to the address indicated below not later than June 16, 2003. Kindly indicate your latest compensation package and contact phone numbers for immediate processing.
Please do not forget to indicate the assigned CODE on the envelope.

Luzon Applicants may mail resumes to:

Sales Organization Department
Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.
IDC Compound, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave.
Ugong Norte, Libis
Quezon City

Visayas Applicants may mail resumes to:

Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.
c/o IDS Logistics Phils.
#16 G. Ouano St. Opao
Mandaue City

Previous applicants need not apply.

ASIA'S 1ST AND LARGEST I.T. UNIVERSITY IS STILL GROWING!

CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER

- Graduate of MA Industrial/Human Relations from a reputable school; With more than 7 years work experience as HR head; Well-versed in organizational development and labor relations

AVP - AUDIT

- CPA, graduate of BS Accountancy with MBA degree/units; With at least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity in any public/private firm or its equivalent in the field of Accounting or Audit; Preferably with experience in the audit of computerized systems and internal quality audit.

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING FOR OUR CAMPUSES NATIONWIDE:

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Must have at least 5-7 years marketing/sales experience in a managerial capacity; MA/MBA graduates from reputable schools; With excellent communication skills

ADMISSION MANAGERS

- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills; Graduate of Management, Marketing or any related course; At least 3 years direct selling and marketing experience.

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:
Corporate Human Resources,
AMA Group of Companies
AMA Building II, 59 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Fax Nos.: 373-9912 • 373-4390 • 373-3901 loc. 8262
E-mail: hr-recruitment@amaes.edu.ph

AMA Group of Companies

You are invited to ambergris'

CAREER FAIR

JUNE 9-13 & 16-20, 2003
10AM-7PM

We're currently on the look out for talented individuals to be a part of our team.

30 TEAM CAPTAINS

Strong leadership skills. You will be the first line supervisor of a team of CIAs. Candidates must possess a minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience is a big plus. Willing to work shifts is must.

200 INBOUND SALES ASSOCIATES

Candidates must possess the ability to project a positive sales attitude. Fluent in English, both in oral and written communication. Proficient in computer applications. Willing to work in shifts, including graveyard.

At Ambergris Solutions, people make the difference. Attractive compensation, competitive benefits, daily treats, night shift bonuses and exceptional career growth will be given to qualified applicants.
Our employee-partners are committed to transforming the world of customer care.
Come join the revolution!

ambergris solutions

ambergris solutions
31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Monday to Friday, between 10am-6pm
Or email to: recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com
www.ambergrissolutions.com

A leading Glass Company is in need of the following:

Two (2) Marketing Assistant – Male/female; not more than twenty five (25) years of age; willing to undergo training; with good communication skills; fresh graduates welcomed; residing in the vicinity of Bacood, Sta. Mesa; can work independently or with a group.

Eight (8) Machine Operators – Male, not more than thirty (30) years of age; preferably a trade school graduate; can be able to interpret engineering drawings; willing to undergo training; residing in the vicinity of Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

One (1) Quality Control Assistant – Male, not more than thirty five (35) years of age; have attained at least 3rd year of engineering course; preferably with experience in in-process inspection; familiar with measuring and quality control equipment; residing in the vicinity of Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

One (1) Production Coordinator – Male, not more than thirty five (35) years of age; preferably Industrial Engineering Graduate or at least have attained 3rd year of the said course; preferably with knowledge in scheduling; with knowledge in production, reporting and documentation; residing in the vicinity of Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

Submit resumé and bio-data with 2"x2" colored picture to:
The PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
3453-55 V. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa, Manila
not later than **June 13, 2003.**

GRAND JOB FAIR OF
BUENCONSEJO-ILLUSTRADO & ASSOCIATES

URGENTLY NEEDS....

JUNIOR MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

45-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & any MED. courses
* License or Non-License & good pleasing personality
30-GRADUATES OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archi.
* Self-motivated & willing to undergo training
20-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
* Managerial skill is an advantage
12- GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses.
* Creative, good analysis & hardworking

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience. Willing to be assign in diff. positions available in the company.
** Hiring starts on June 9-14, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM). Accepted applicants from June 9-14, 2003 will start immediately.

FRESH GRADUATES ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credential and 2x2 picture at:

#235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Saver's Square & Allied Bank, walking distance from MRT Taft & LRT Edsa station)

Look for MS. ESTRADA

Clip this AD to your RESUME

ECLOF Philippines

is in urgent need of a

Finance Officer

Qualifications:
1. At least 28 years of age
2. Accounting graduate preferably CPA
3. Have background in banking or microfinance
4. Adept in excel

Interested parties may send their application to:
Rm. 200 NCCP Ecumenical Center
879 EDSA, Quezon City
or e-mail us at eclof@pacific.net.ph

A US based IT company urgently needs the following as part of its on-going expansion.

WEB DESIGNERS/ CARTOON ANIMATORS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in COE, ECE, Fine Arts or any IT related fields.
- 1-2 yrs working experience in Web Developing and Graphic Design.
- Basic knowledge in Javascript, CSS and FTP
- Proficient in Photoshop & Dreamweaver is a must.
- Possess excellent creative skills in graphic design, lay-out and animation.
- Knowledge in 2D, 3D and Cartoon animation is a plus.
- Must have an excellent command of oral and written English skills.
- Must submit a sample web portfolio (required).
- Must be willing to work on shifting schedules.
- Proactive, trainable and a team player.
- Male, at least 22 yrs old.

Please apply personally or email your updated resume with your latest 2x2 picture at:

TULIN ONLINE, INC.
Unit 802, 8/F The Centerpoint Building
Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No. 635-7805 ; Fax No. 635-6956
Email Address: elunas@tulinonline.com

De La Salle University - Professional Schools, Inc.

The De La Salle University - Professional Schools, Inc. is in need of qualified professional to fulfill the position of an

Accountant

- CPA; computer literate/proficient
- 3-5 years experience in accounting work in a supervisory capacity
- highly analytical
- pleasant/pleasing personality
- results oriented
- fluent in written/oral communication
- committed and honest
- female; 25-35 years old; single

If you are interested, please submit an application letter, ID picture (2 copies), Curriculum Vitaé, and Transcript of Records. Please address the required documents to:

De La Salle University-Professional Schools, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Room 213 Gokongwei Bldg.
De La Salle University
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOBMARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES — JOB VACANCIES

QUEZON CITY CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Head Office of Student Affairs	Holder of a Master's Degree in Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, Educational Management, Educational Planning or any other related field, with at least five (5) years satisfactory teaching experience in the tertiary level and at least three (3) years of satisfactory administrative or managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Chair Humanities & Social Sciences Physical Education	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree and appropriate Professional License required for at least a bachelor's degree, preferably with at least three (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience and two (2) years of satisfactory managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Guidance Counselor	Holder of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, preferably with one (1) year related work experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Faculty Members Accountancy & Commerce Architecture Chemical Engineering Computer Science/IT/IM Electrical Engineering Electronics & Communications Engineering Marine Engineering Mechanical Engineering Mathematics & Physics English Filipino Social Sciences	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time/part time
Network Specialist	Holder of any Computer related Bachelor's Degree, has experience in Network Structure and design for voice/data, knowledge and experience in implementing ASP model is an advantage, with technical documentation/web design skills, can operate and administer major networking operating system, can configure routers, knowledge and experience in check point administration, knowledge in wireless connection, with at least three (3) years related work experience, good written and oral communication skills
Librarian	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, with appropriate professional license, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Accounting Clerk	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, good oral and written communication skills, of good moral character, computer literate

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. 911-0140

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES — JOB VACANCIES

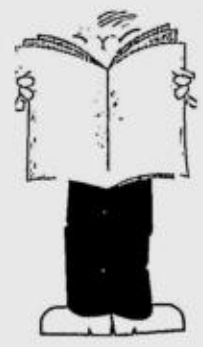
MANILA CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Chair Marine Engineering Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree or with at least 15 units in Master's and with appropriate Professional License, with shipboard experience, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time
Chair, Humanities & Social Sciences Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree required for at least bachelor's degree, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Chair, Physical Education Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree required for at least bachelor's degree, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Head, Guidance & Counseling Office	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, with at least 3 years related work experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Guidance Counselors	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, preferably with master's units/ degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Faculty Members Architecture Chemical Engineering English Mathematics & Physics	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time / part time
Faculty For Stewarding	Graduate of BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management with work experience as Steward on board vessel with training certified by MTC/TESDA/NAC

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARMENT
363 P.Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. 734-3631

Get your career off the ground.



JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

A leading distributor of imported footwear, apparel and accessories is in **URGENT** need of the following.

1. SALES COORDINATORS

- College graduate with above average communication skills.
- At least 1-2 years work experience in managing more than six (6) retail stores.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Efficient, proactive and effective people management, keen on details.

2. STORE SUPERVISORS

- College level at least 5'3 in height.
- At least one-year work experience in managing retail store.
- With pleasing personality.
- Can communicate in written and oral English.

3. VISUAL MERCHANDISER

- College graduate preferably with a degree in Fine Arts.
- At least 2-3 years work experience in store merchandising.
- Proficient in ADOBE illustrator, computer literate, Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
- Above average communication and inter-personal skills.
- Creative, fashion trend conscious.
- Efficient, keen on details, committed, a good team player.

4. HRD ASSISTANT

- AB or BS Psychology Graduate
- With at least two-year work experience in HRD.
- Computer literate particularly Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- People oriented, values-driven, flexible, with pleasant disposition and proactive.

We are an equal opportunity employer and offer attractive compensation to successful candidates commensurate to their qualifications.

Please apply personally with your transcript of records, detailed resumé, 2x2 picture, and certificate of employment to the following address. Interview starts on June 2, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

R.S.H. MARKETING (PHILIPPINES), INC.
#888 EDSA Bo. Highway Hills Mandaluyong City
Look for: CECILLE JAVIER

ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL BANKS...

Executive Secretary

Corporate Banking Staff
Preferably a CPA

needs...

Operations Staff

Administrative Staff

Applicants must be business-related course graduates, not over 25 years old, computer literate, has pleasing personality, with excellent communication skills, and able to work under minimum supervision. Send application letter, curriculum vitae, transcript of records and colored photo to Box no. MK-105 c/o Classified Ads Dept., PDI, G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any Business Course
- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:
- Visits and monitors agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

DRIVER

Qualifications:
- High School graduate
- Holder of a professional driver's license
- 1-2 years experience in collection work or similar field

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for driving light company vehicles to transport office personnel, supplies or materials to local or long distance passage.

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Rx MEDICard

MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

DIRECT ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

- Female, 24-28 years old, 5'2" and above in height;
- Preferably a graduate of medical related.course or Mass Communication;
- With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
- At least 2 years experience in Account Management.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS/LIAISON OFFICERS

- Male/Female, not more than 26 years of age. At least 5'4" in height;
- Preferably a graduate of any of the following courses: Medical, Marketing or Mass Communication;
- With above average written and oral communication skills;
- Must be computer literate & willing to do field work.

REGISTERED NURSES

- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital, clinic or HMO setting;
- With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills.

We also need: Medical Technologists, X-Ray Technicians and General Clerks

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

Human Resources Department
MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
8/F World Center Bldg.
#330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
E-mail address: ralegria@medicardphils.com

HOTDOG ON STICKS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

ASST. FINANCE MANAGER
MARKETING ASSISTANT
GRAPHIC ARTIST/DRAFTSMAN
FAMILY DRIVER (stay-in)
MAINTENANCE CREW
SERVICE CREW

INTERESTED APPLICANT MAY ALSO SUBMIT THEIR RESUMÉ TO HOTDOG ON STICKS OUTLET IN ANY SM SUPERMARKETS

APPLY PERSONALLY @ HOS Corporation
1049 FCL Center Aurora Blvd. cor. Katipunan Rd. Quezon City, Tel. No.: 913-6404

WANTED EVENTS HEAD

- ✔ Must have experience conducting social, promotional & entertainment functions.
- ✔ Excellent verbal & written communication skills required and outgoing personality
- ✔ College graduate
- ✔ Starting salary P20,000 per month or based on experience

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo to:

Ms. Dada B. Legaspi
3/F Save-A-Lot Mall, 2284 P. Tamo Extension, Makati City

TERADYNE

Is the world's largest supplier of automatic test equipment and software for the telecommunications and electronics industries. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and currently employs more than 100 personnel engaged in parts and repair services support for mixed signal, VLSI and memory testing.

With the unprecedented growth of the Company, we are looking for individual who are creative, aggressive, and mature to handle the position of:

SR. TEST DESIGN/FAILURE ANALYSIS ENGINEER

Global Customer Services

GCGCSS mission is to provide world-class repair and replacement part services that our customers value. We are looking for a Sr. Test Engineer to be situated in our repair Location in Cebu, Philippines. He shall be responsible in test equipment programs, validation and verification programs, modification, upgrades and/or repair. He shall closely work with other engineers and other divisions for process and quality improvements. He should be very competent and act as technical mentor and/or coach to other test engineers in improving technical repair Cebu. Other responsibilities include asset utilization and participation on quality improvement teams through the use of TQM concepts. The candidate must be very flexible, as the position requires meetings outside the daily workday with team based in the US as well as potential travel to the US.

Qualifications:

— BSECE, BSEE or BS Computer Engineering graduate, MS in Engineering preferred.
— At least 10 years extensive experience as test, failure analysis, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry.
— Experience in Hardware / Software validation and verification for medium or high-end testers.
— Knowledgeable with unix, solaris, windows based application and knowledge in C++ programming.
— Experience in leading more than 10 Test / Failure Analysis Engineers.
— Good verbal and written communication skills

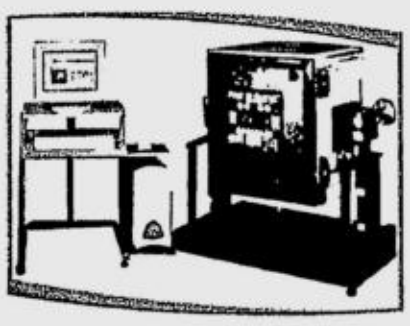
TEST DESIGN/FAILURE ANALYSIS ENGINEERS

He shall be responsible in test equipment programs, validation and verification, upgrade and/or repair. He shall closely work with other engineers and other division for process and quality improvements. Other responsibilities include asset utilization and participation on quality improvement teams through the use of TQM concepts.

Qualifications:

— BSECE, BSEE or BS Computer Engineering graduate
— At least 2-3 years extensive experience as test, failure analysis, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry.
— Experience in Hardware / Software validation and verification for medium or high-end testers.
— Knowledgeable with unix, solaris, windows based application and knowledge in C++ programming

BOARD REPAIR TECHNICIANS



Qualifications:

— At least a graduate of a three (3) year course in Electronics or BS ECE, BS COM E, or BSIT in Electronics
— Knowledgeable in circuit tracing as well as component level of electronics troubleshooting and has work experience in a semiconductor or electronics company.
— Must be computer literate, results oriented, and assertive and eager to learn new trends in high technology environment.

We shall only accommodate candidates with specific qualifications and skills requirements as stated above. Previous applicants need not apply.

The Successful candidate will receive a competitive compensation and benefits package within the Semiconductor and electronics industry and has the opportunity to work in a technology driven company like TERADYNE. THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT. Please send your **application letter** together with your **resumé** and **1x1 ID picture not later than 11 June 2003** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
Mactan Export Processing Zone II
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu, Philippines 6015
Or email to: Cebuhr@teradyne.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PURSER/CHIEF STEWARD

(For a luxury charter yacht)

Male: 25-35 years old
Educational Attainment: College Level
Must have work experience in a management position in a luxury ship, hotel or restaurant.
Will be given overall responsibility for domestic side of yacht. Will train and supervise the activities of stewards, chef and assistant cook.
In-charge of all food preparations and budgets for food and beverages of guests and crew.

WAITER

Male, Single, maximum age: 25 years old
Educational Attainment: At least 2 years in College
Neat and pleasant-looking; good family background.
Fluent in English and with good cooking skills.
Must have at least 1 year work experience as Waiter/ Banquet Staff in 5-Star Hotels.
Will assist Purser/Chief Steward.

Salary Negotiable.

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS. ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY TO:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
Tel. Nos.: (0917)846-7261 / (632)412-1290

*Previous Applicants NEED NOT APPLY.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Supplier-Distributor of quality building materials needs qualified applicants for the following positions:

SALES OFFICER

- Male, 24 to 30 years old
- College Degree Holder preferably Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering or related business courses
- Proficient in both written and oral English
- Honest and hardworking
- Preferably with previous selling experience in the construction industry, either for projects or dealers
- Preferably living within the vicinity of Pasig City

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND PICTURE TO:

TASCO Building Supplies Inc.
No. 1866 Ortigas Avenue Extension, Rosario, Pasig City
Phone Nos. 642-4663; 642-4168

I CALL

ICall Global Services Corporation, the country's premier Outbound Call Center specializing in delivering World-Class Telemarketing services to international markets, is looking for a:

FINANCE OFFICER/MANAGER

The responsibilities and functions include inventory management, cost accounting, internal auditing, establishing sound internal controls and financial planning.

Qualifications:

- CPA, with a minimum of five years management accounting experience in an executive position.
- A thorough understanding of management accounting, cost analysis, cost accounting, and financial planning.
- Must be prepared to work for a start-up type company in a fast growing environment.
- Articulate and has excellent written communication skills.
- Audit Background is a plus.

Please submit an application letter and resumé together with your latest 2x2 photo to:

Mail: 8/F The Insular Life Corporate Center, Tower II, Filinvest Corp. City, Muntinlupa
Email: recruitment@icallph.com

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

WANTED
BY A GARMENT EXPORTING COMPANY

1) ACCOUNTANT

- Male/Female, Accounting graduate, presently holding, accounting position in a garment mfg. Company for at least 5 years. Computer literate, can work with minimum supervision can handle pressure, and hardworking. *(based in Ortigas)*

2) PERSONNEL OFFICER

- Male/Female, at least 30 years old with at least 5 years experience in HRD, must have extensive experience handling workers in a garment manufacturing, can work with minimum supervision, hardworking and can handle pressure. *(based in Alabang)*

2) PATTERN MAKER

- Knowledgeable in using Gerber plotter machine, at least 5 years experience, knows how to make patterns hardworking and can handle pressure. *(based in Alabang)*

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— Graduate of any business course, should possess strong inter-personal, leadership and managerial skills
— At least 35 years old and knows how to play golf
— With at least five (5) years experience in planning golf tournaments and other sports activities.
— Familiarity with USGA/NGAP rules

2. Facilities Supervisor

— Civil Eng'ng/Architect graduate
— Not more than 35 years old
— Must possess leadership and supervisory skills
— At least three (3) years experience in construction preferably golf club
— Knowledge on services offered by Security/ Janitorial Agencies

3. Internal Audit Supervisor

— CPA, Male/Female
— With at least five (5) years experience, three (3) year in supervisory positions
— Knowledge in all audit functions and capable of developing and applying audit programs and procedures
— With good oral and written communication skills, especially in audit report systems
— Assertive, self-starter, possess high integrity and must be a team player

4. Caddie Services Supervisor

— College graduate, should possess strong inter-personal, leadership and communication skills
— At least 30 years old and knows how to play golf
— Three (3) years experience in golf club recording, caddie service standards, proper handling of golf bags with at least one (1) year in a supervisory position.

Submit your complete resumé, 2x2 photo and salary expectations not later than June 15, 2003:

Human Resources Department
Valley Golf and Country Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 202 Q. Plaza
Cainta, Rizal 1900

Or email it @
Valley_ogm@sfi.com.ph

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16/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
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Fax No. **842-3491**

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- Graduate of a four year business related course
- With a meritous professional experience in corporate planning, marketing & retail.
- Must have an excellent interpersonal & communication skills.
- Must have a high level of computer literacy.
- Native speaker level of written & spoken English.
- Ability to work w/ minimum supervision & maintain composure under pressure.
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Quezon City 1104

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VSO

Bahaginan is VSO's southern volunteer programme, an initiative that works in development through volunteers. It offers a unique opportunity for Filipinos to share their skills and learn about another culture elsewhere in the developing world. Currently, there are over 60 VSO Filipino volunteers serving in over 20 countries around the world. It also provides technical support towards the development of national volunteering programmes.

VSO Bahaginan welcomes applications for a high quality, committed professional as:

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

The post holder will be expected to be responsible for the following:

Provide reception cover for VSO Bahaginan Office;
Respond to enquiries in a prompt and professional way;
Encode volunteer application enquiries into the VSO database system;
Co-ordinate the logistics of pre-departure training activities and volunteer assessment days with concerned programme officers;
Provide general administrative support to Finance & Administrative Officer;
Take responsibility for the filing system and for assisting volunteers on the use of the learning & resource center; and
Be trained as a volunteer VSO selector.

We require a confident person with relevant formal education degree; at least two years relevant experience, excellent verbal and written communications; strong interpersonal skills; administrative and organizational ability; and must be computer literate.

This post is initially offered on a one-year contract, with possibility to renew.

Closing date: **23 June 2003**
Interview date: **1 July 2003**
Preference starting date: **1 August 2003**

Please submit your letter of intent and your comprehensive resume to Southern Volunteer Programme Manager at bahaginan@qinet.net. *Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.*

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JR. AUDITOR

The ideal candidate must be a graduate of BSC/BSBA major in Accountancy and have at least one (1) year work experience as an auditor. He/She must be good in oral and written communication and should be computer literate. Preferably CPA.

FINANCIAL ANALYST

The ideal candidate must be a graduate of BSC/BSBA major in Accountancy and have at least one (1) year work experience. He/She must be good in oral and written communication and should be computer literate. Responsibility will cover Executive Assistant task.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Preferably a graduate of Industrial Engineering and must have 2-3 years supervisory work experience. The candidate must be a computer literate with good in interpersonal skills. He/she must know how to drive.

RENTAL SALES AGENT

The ideal candidate must be between 21-26 years old and a college graduate of any 4 year course. He/She must have a pleasing personality with good interpersonal and communication skills. He/She must be willing to work on a shifting period. Driving skills is an advantage.

Due to urgency of these requirements, applicants are requested to come personally with their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture from Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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b.) a pharmaceutical sales person with extensive client base (especially high net worth doctors).

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Attn : **Ms. Jocelyn P. Sumalinog**
1202 West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Or Fax : 687-2116 to 17 (through Chris) or 687-7437 to 38 (through Jane)
E-mail : jhosumalinog@firsteurasian.com
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Send your CV and other supporting documents latest by 30 June 2003 to:

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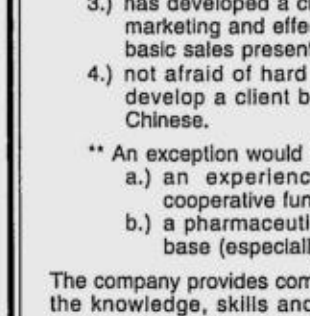

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- ✓ **Exceptional leadership qualities, resourceful and a team player;**
- ✓ **Computer literate & willing to travel.**

(2) Technical Services Assistant (Code: TSA)

- ✓ Designs, plans, & coordinates technical projects;
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- ✓ Responsible in managing project plans and timelines, writing specifications, creating documentation and evaluating project results;
- ✓ Graduate of Industrial Engineering. Graduates of other Engineering degrees will be considered if candidate has adequate post-graduate training and experience in Industrial Engineering; MBA or MSIE degree or units preferred.

(1) R&D Services Assistant (Code: RSA)

- ✓ R&D work on new products & production processes;
- ✓ Responsible for handling customer inquiries and extend technical services to marketing and other units;
- ✓ Food Technology graduates. Post- graduates in related technical fields preferred.

(2) Business Development Officer (Code: BDO)

- ✓ Develop markets and accounts for new products;
- ✓ Conduct market research and establish market trends and preferences;
- ✓ Oversee the movement of the market and competitive activities.
- ✓ Graduate of Business Administration (Marketing, Advertising), Communication Arts or Economics (MBA degree or units preferred).

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- ✓ Oversee an existing IE Program & monitor the work of up to 12 Industrial Engineers.
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- ✓ Graduate of Industrial Engineering. Graduates of other Engineering degrees will be considered if candidate has adequate post-graduate training and experience in Industrial Engineering; MBA or MSIE degree or units preferred.

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- ✓ Graduate of Industrial Engineering.

The company provides competitive compensation packages and excellent opportunity for professional and personal development. Interested qualified applicants send your application letter before July 15, 2003 together with your comprehensive resume (indicating your salary, contact numbers, and the position code), with a copy of your transcript of records and attach your 2 x 2 colored picture and mail or personally submit to:

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EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES

16 commonsense listening tips

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

"THE REASON you don't understand me, Edith, is because I'm talkin' to you in English and you're listenin' to me in dingbat!"—Archie Bunker

Archie was right about finding a common language or wavelength, but it takes two to communicate—the speaker and the listener. Both need to make the effort to understand each other. According to a French proverb, "The spoken word belongs half to him that speaks and half to him who hears."

All skills require learned behaviors and rules. The rules for good listening involve basic courtesy, sorely needed by Archie, and common sense. Some of the rules may seem obvious, but it is amazing how many people forget them and unintentionally insult the speaker.

Often, without intending to be rude, your enthusiasm for a subject and your own desire to hear yourself talk cause you to forget courtesy. At other times you may be so involved with your own point of view that you forget to listen to what your client is saying; you just plain stop listening!

So, when conversing with another person, be aware of and practice the following rules:

1. Let others tell their own stories first.

When others explain their situations, they may reveal interesting facts and valuable clues that will aid you in helping them solve their problems or satisfy their needs. By letting them speak first, you also save time. When their interests are revealed you can tailor your discussion to their particular needs, goals, and objectives and can dispense with inappropriate conversation.

2. It is impossible to listen and talk at the same time.

This basic rule of effective listening is most often broken, especially by Archie Bunker. People anxious to add their own views to the conversation try to interject comments while another person is speaking. They wait for a pause in the conversation and "rapid fire" their comments at the other person. This interjection of random comments is irritating to the speaker and actually slows the conversation because the initial speaker must dodge the comments and still keep his train of thought. Why not wait until the speaker's point is made? Then, you will have your chance.

An enormous benefit of listening to your client is that he may "sell himself." He may solve his own problems or even come up with some product benefits that hadn't occurred to you. In addition, encouraging the client to talk keeps him from feeling pressured into a sale. Building confidence and reducing tension strengthen the trust bond between you and your client.

A client who "sells himself" is likely to be more fully committed and less likely to have "buyer's remorse." He may become a staunch defender of your product, be open-minded in future dealings, and be more likely to listen to you.

3. Listen for the main ideas.

Specific facts are only important as they pertain to the main theme. They can cause misinterpretation if taken out of context. Relate stated facts to the arguments of the speaker and weigh the verbal evidence used. Take advantage of the superior speed of thought over words and periodically review a portion of the discussion that has already been completed.

A good listener also tries to guess the points the speaker will make. Ask yourself: "What is the speaker getting at?" or "What is his point?" Then get feedback. If you guess correctly, your understanding is enhanced, and your attention is increased. If you are incorrect, you learn from your mistake.

4. Be sensitive to your emotional deaf spots.

Deaf spots are words that make your mind wander or go off on a mental tangent. They set off a chain reaction that produces a mental barrier in your mind, which in turn inhibits the continued flow of the speaker's message. Everyone is affected by certain words so it is important to discover your own individual stumbling blocks and analyze why these words have such a profound effect on you.

5. Fight off distractions.

Train yourself to listen carefully to your customer's words, despite such external distractions as a ringing telephone, passersby or other office noise. Localized distractions, such as the idiosyncrasies of the speaker, may also be irritating, but make a conscious attempt to judge the content of the message—not the delivery.

Focus your attention on the words, ideas, feelings and underlying intent. Through practice you can improve your power of concentration, so that you can block out external and internal distractions and attend totally to the speaker.

6. Do not trust to memory certain data that may be important.

Take brief notes because listening ability is impaired while you are writing. Remember that you cannot effectively do two things at the same time. Write notes in words and phrases rather than complete thoughts. All you need is something to jog your memory later in the day, and then you can recall the complete content of the message. Read your notes as soon as possible to make sure you understand what you put down on paper and always review them before subsequent contact with your clients.

7. React to the message, not the person.

Don't allow your mental impression of the speaker to influence your interpretation of his message. Good thoughts, concepts, and arguments can come from some of your least favorite people. George Jefferson planted the seeds of many ideas in Archie's fertile imagination.

8. Try to appreciate the emotion behind the words (vocal and visual messages) more than the literal meaning of the words.

Try to ask yourself these questions when another person is speaking:

a. What are the other person's feelings?

b. What does he mean by what he is saying?

c. What is his point of view?

d. Why is he saying this?

e. What is implied by what he says?

More next week

(Copyright C 2003 by Dr. Tony Alessandra, used with permission. For feedback or information regarding Tony's products or services, please contact info@alessandra. com, www.alessandra.com.)

'I am stressed...'

(From page K-14)

tion. I asked myself what is really important for me. I decided there were activities that I did not have to do myself. Others can do them even better and with greater perfection. Then, I took stock of my other extracurricular activities. I was an officer in a prestigious organization, my involvement was important for my professional development. I mustered enough courage to resign.

Now, your situation is different. You are asking me if you should resign after nine months of work because you are stressed, tired and miserable. In this age of dynamic change, many employers are starting to shift mindsets. They know people are downsized or resign not necessarily for personal reasons. Often, it is because of the state of the economy or the business.

Should you resign? I say go ahead, but first make sure you have a good job waiting. People who are out of work have greater difficulty landing jobs because they suffer low self-esteem. They then take every rejection when applying for a job personally. I suggest take some days off. Print many copies of your resume and find out from your friends and relatives if they have or know of vacancies. Then, being a writer, prepare a folio of your manuscripts. You can show your work to potential interviewers and employers.

Then, we have many readers, who are owners of companies. I am sure they will make you offers as they have done with some of our readers. All the best. God bless and reward you with the right job.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

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Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

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GLEE ELECTRONICS, INC.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, a Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with MBA units
- 2 years experience in accounting and audit work, 1 year management experience
- Knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation, Labor Law

Responsibilities:
- Supervises audit projects in order to ensure systems and procedures are implemented.
- Audits based on IIA and dept standards to ensure compliance.
- Prepares communicates audit reports based on the evaluation/findings and recommends appropriate actions.

EDITORIAL OFFICE ASSISTANT
Legaspi Bureau

Qualifications:
- Degree in Journalism, Mass Communications or any related field
- With at least 1 year related experience

Responsibilities:
- Assist in coordinating stories with Bureau correspondents and news sources
- Taking down news advisories
- Initial preparation on news summaries
- Write stories upon assignment
- Assist in coordinating with the Head Office news desk for news data, production reports and correspondent's payments

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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Group of Companies

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We are currently in the process of expanding our business. We are searching for experienced individuals to fill the following specialized positions:

Set foot into PRINT TOWN and be a part of a progressive printing industry. Send your resume to:

PRINT TOWN GROUP OF COMPANIES
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Mascardo St. corner Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City 1205

Or e-mail at njose@fep.ph

The Best Way to Put Ink on Paper

Pre-press Manager

- M/F, College Graduate Preferred. Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Must have had at least 2 years experience in managing creative or pre-press production operations
- Excellent grasp of color reproduction theory and management, digital graphic production workflows and up-to-date on the latest technologies in printing and graphic arts

Pre-press Technician

- M/F, High School Graduate, technical/vocational education level
- Background or relevant experience in pre-press and printing operations preferred
- Familiarity with major graphic software applications, file pre-flight and color reproduction theory

Junior Printer (Commercial Web Operations)

- M/F, High School Graduate, technical/vocational education level
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Background or relevant experience in full-color offset printing press operations
- Direct experience in operating commercial heatset web machines would be an advantage

Junior Printer (Sheetfed Operations)

- M/F, High School Graduate, technical/vocational education level
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Background or relevant experience in full-color offset printing press operations
- Direct experience in operating large format, multi-color printing press would be an advantage

Junior Bindery Technicians & Supervisors (Post-Press)

- M/F, High School Graduate, technical/vocational education level
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Background or relevant experience in bindery operations, particularly with saddle-stitching and/or perfect binding preferred

Mechanical Plant Maintenance Supervisor

- M/F, College Graduate, preferably in mechanical engineering
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Previous maintenance and repair background in printing operations would be preferred but not necessary
- With previous supervisory experience
- Can operate computer and software applications for e-mail, word processing and spreadsheets

Electrical & Electronics Maintenance Supervisor

- M/F, College Graduate, preferably in electrical or electronics and communications engineering
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Previous supervisory experience preferred
- Background in PLC diagnostics and programming would be an advantage
- Can operate computer and software applications

Sales Account Executives (Commercial Printing Division)

- M/F, College level or graduate preferred
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Previous relevant experience in printing sales would be an advantage

Telephone Receptionist

- M/F, College graduate
- Strong oral and written English communication skills

Production Planning Supervisor

- M/F, College graduate preferably in Industrial Engineering
- Can operate computer and software applications for e-mail, flowcharting, word processing and spreadsheets
- Previous relevant experience would be an advantage

Print Cost Estimator

- M/F, College graduate preferably in Accounting or similar field
- Can operate computer and software applications for e-mail, word processing and spreadsheets
- Previous relevant experience in the field would be an advantage

Junior IC Analyst

- M/F, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, preferably CPA
- At least one-year experience in accounting or audit functions
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Proficiency in MS Office applications (Excel/Word)

Electrical Maintenance Engineer

- Male, Licensed Electrical Engineer
- Can troubleshoot and knowledgeable in Industrial Machine
- Has also knowledge in preventive and safety maintenance
- Can identify electrical diagram and layouts
- 2 to 3 years experience in ink manufacturing industry

Senior Purchasing Coordinator

- M/F, With at least 3 years experience in importations and at least 5 years experience doing purchasing functions
- Knowledgeable in sourcing for suppliers, specifically printing materials
- Can communicate very well, computer literate
- Preferably graduate of any engineering or business course

Purchasing Clerk

- M/F, Industrial Engineering or Marketing graduate
- At least 1 year experience in Purchasing Department
- Computer literate

General Service Department Manager

- Preferably a graduate of an Engineering course (Civil, Mechanical or Electrical)
- At least 3 years experience in plant and building administration
- Knowledge of plant and building permit requirements
- Team builder, aggressive

HR Analyst

- M/F, Computer literate
- Preferably a graduate of Psychology or Legal Management
- 1-2 years relevant work experience in payroll & benefits administration
- Flexible, assertive, keen to details, willing to work on extended hours

Mechanical Technician (for Cebu & Davao Branch)

- Mechanical Engineer
- Goal oriented, self-motivated and team player
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Can work on shifts
- Willing to undergo extensive training

Electrical Technician (for Cebu & Davao Branch)

- ECE or EE graduate; Familiar with AC and DC; PLC literate
- Goal-oriented, self-motivated and team player
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Can work on shifts

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion in Jesus' name

PHILIPPINES

Compassion International-Philippines, a Christian child development organization, invites applicants for the following positions:

SPONSOR AND DONOR MINISTRY SUPERVISOR (SDM Supervisor)

Provides leadership to the SDM staff, in order to effectively execute corporate and communication processes and relate well with sponsors and donors

Qualifications:

- An Evangelical Born-Again with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is above reproach in integrity and honesty
- Excellent relational, supervisorial, and leadership skills
- Bachelor's degree from a reputable university
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- A minimum of three years of experience in a similar position in a relevant organization
- Strong understanding of process design and execution
- A valid driver's license
- Ability to supervise 7–10 staff
- Clear written and verbal communication skills in languages relevant to the country, as well as fluency in English
- Computer knowledge: Microsoft Office for operational management, including Access, Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint

COUNTRY DIRECTOR (CD)

Provides overall spiritual and corporate leadership and management for Compassion's ministry within the country, representing the organization's mandates, values, and directions; manages finance, communications, information, and human resources systems; and ensures that management activities follow Compassion's matrix management guidelines and policies

Qualifications:

- An Evangelical Born-Again with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is above reproach in integrity and honesty Speaks the truth in love
- A proven management style that is consistent with the principles of holistic child development
- Ability to develop positive and trusting intercultural and interdenominational relationships
- Sufficient administrative and management skills to lead a fast-paced business environment
- At least five years of people and financial management experience
- Clear written and verbal communication skills in languages relevant to the country, as well as fluency in English
- A clear calling to minister to children
- Able to travel for prolonged periods within and outside the country
- Computer knowledge: Microsoft Office for operational management, including Access, Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint

If you satisfy the above requirements and desire to minister to children with us, kindly send your resume, 2x2 photo, certificates of employment, and Pastor's recommendation not later than June 20, 2003 to:

The Human Resource Specialist
Compassion Philippines
2F 99 E&L Bldg., Don Alejandro Roces Ave.,
QC 1103, Philippines Tel. 373-3021 to 23
Fax 410-6972 Email:rcosico@ph.ci.org

SENIOR PROGRAM FACILITATOR (SPF)

Provides leadership over other Program Facilitators in the same geographical area and overall program management of child development sponsorship projects; the link between Compassion and its local church-partners; oversees Compassion programs and renders program support, working closely with Project Directors to ensure programs are effective, developmental, and aligned with the Compassion's strategic directions and specific objectives; shall contribute to the overall program planning and influence program direction

Qualifications:

- An Evangelical Born-Again with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is above reproach in integrity and honesty
- Ability to elicit local initiatives and participation of partners
- Expertise in social work, and human growth and development, preferably in child development
- Proven experience in development principles, adult learning, integrity, and trust
- Ability to develop positive and trusting relationships with church-partners
- A burden for ministry to children
- Ability to develop strategic plans in a collaborative manner
- Able and willing to travel for prolonged periods in diverse, remote, and potentially adverse places
- Clear written and verbal communication skills in languages relevant to the country, as well as fluency in English
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills
- Computer knowledge: Microsoft Office for operational management, including Access, Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint.

An **American medical device manufacturer** in **Subic Bay Freeport Zone urgently needs:**

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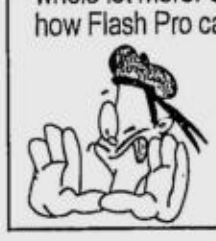

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- female, not over 27 years old
- college graduate
- marketing/sales experience is an advantage
- excellent communication skills
- with pleasing personality and good moral character
- computer literate

FREE-LANCE VIDEO EDITORS

- knowledgeable in Final Cut Pro 3 using G4 Macintosh
- creative

Interested parties are requested to send their resumé with 2x2 picture to:
2ND/F RODIL BLDG., 326 CAPT. HENRY JAVIER ST., BRGY. ORAMBO, PASIG CITY
or e-mail your resumé to soulwater26@yahoo.com

FINE DINING Restaurant BAR in Makati needs...

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WAITRESSES – min. height 5'5"
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FEMALE CASHIERS
FEMALE RECEPTIONISTS – min. height 5'6"

Please send your resumé with 2x2 photo to:
MK 125 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

Send your resumé instantly.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

How do you establish a fee for your services?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I run a computer consulting business from my home. Until now all of my work has been with my old company at a pre-determined fee. Now there's a potential new client whose business I'm dying to get, but who has a reputation for paying poorly. Got any tips for negotiating a fee?

Pennies From Heaven

I just got an email from a guy describing his worst job interview (I'm not making this up). He said: "The interviewer started by asking me questions: 'what kind of gas do you use?' and 'what did you eat for breakfast?' He then asked me to laugh, which I thought strange, but did. Next, he asked me to do 10 pushups. Finally, he told me that the job had been filled several days before; he just wanted to see how far I'd go for a job."

Pricing fairly

Well, that's a question you need to ask yourself, too. How far are you willing to go to land this client? Would you go so far you'd offer your services at less than your costs? That's the danger most new business owners face as they try to win new clients. To price yourself fairly, follow these tips from Marian Faux's book Successful Freelancing (St. Martin's Press, 1997):

Know your bottom line. Duh! Seems obvious, doesn't it? But you'd be surprised how many home-based businesses don't. Cut a deal, but never for less than your costs—these days that's too risky. Why? One executive I recently talked to said, "as our vendors learn to work with us, we expect their fees to drop." There is an old joke—we lose money on every product we sell, but we'll make it up with volume. That's one trap you'll want to avoid.

Negotiating skills

Bid high. When was the last time you started a negotiation with your best offer? Be prepared to haggle a little. Remember: you can always come down, but you can't go higher. I can't tell you how many independent contractors have priced jobs "too high" (because they were willing to risk losing them) only to land the contracts anyway.

Talk money last. Until they see the benefits you offer, whatever you charge will be too much. So set the agenda for the meeting and put the discussion about your fee at the bottom.

Be prepared to defend your fee. Present a business case that clearly documents that your fees are reasonable. The term to remember is "benefit sales." Tell them the benefit in hiring you in terms of how it will either decrease their costs or increase their revenues. Also be prepared to compare your fees to those of your competitors.

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Be prepared to respond to 'but that's more than we usually pay.' It may be hard but look them straight in the eye and say, "I'm worth it."

Good luck in your negotiations. If you follow Ms. Faux's advice, you shouldn't make any faux pas.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Concrete jungle...

(From page K14)

This kind of work environment, we need not add, is fertile ground for emotional, mental and physical stress, if not breakdown. One is reminded of the cynical '80's movie Falling Down, where a perpetually harassed Michael Douglas couldn't take it anymore and breaks down. Like the Falling Down character, we only have words of desperation, even when solutions are being proffered, precisely because we couldn't see our way out. We get to listen to the weirdest ideas. "Ironing out these kinks," someone just as desperately inclined volunteers, "may mean overhauling the system, I mean nuking the entire shebang to get it back to square one."

Hah! How have we come to this? Thankfully, helplessness oftentimes reveals a silver lining. And revolution often "comes from the fringes," a sage is quoted to have said. Hitting rock bottom can only mean having nowhere to go but up. This is the time when the urban superstructure gives way to such basic things as grace—divine intervention or "acts of God" materializing from out of the blue like a thunderbolt, announcing doom and destruction as well as heralding a new world order.

This domino reaction only follows the natural law. In ecology, there's the concept of homeostasis: No matter how much havoc man wreaks on the environment, the environment inevitably finds the state of equilibrium, the same stable state as before. After a part of the rainforest is razed to charcoal stubble, sooner or later, the grass grows anew, saplings rise from the ashes, and deer and nestlings find and build a new home.

Rebirth

Similarly, an organization too unwieldy to handle soon crashes, people too inflexible to change bow out of the picture, and management styles and industrial processes that are nondynamic and obsolete end up as case studies or mere footnotes in history. With the old page of complexity expunged, normalcy, i.e., simplicity, is a forgone conclusion; thus a streamlined, more efficient, more customer-oriented organization ensues.

The only problem left remains with the people involved, especially the powers and shakers, the bigwigs and top guns. Unlike the environment or the natural order, man has the unique ability to revel in insufferable complexity—and remain an intransigent, incorrigible fool.

(Share your thoughts and feelings on your work world. Send your contributions to Postcards, which is published once a month, to rreyes @inquirer. com.ph. *Published contributions are paid our usual contributor's fees.)*

Volunteer opportunities

SIGN up for Hands On Manila (HOM) Foundation New Volunteers Orientation on June 27, 2003, 6PM at the University of Asia and the Pacific. Be a part of a caring community of more than 2,000 volunteers, who make a difference even for an hour. HOM offers flexible volunteer opportunities from its 40 partner organizations in Metro Manila. You can choose to volunteer in various projects addressing children and youth, education and literacy, environment and clean-up projects, culture and arts, computers and technology, housing and many more.

Groups and corporations may also participate in the various projects that take place before and after office hours and on weekends. For further details and reservations, call HOM at 843-7044 and 843-5231 or email *handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph* or *homla@info.com.ph.*

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Yes, we have a personal stake in your success. Too many of today's business opportunity companies sell you an over-priced, start-up package and then forget you. But were just the opposite, because we don't make a single penny until you sell something! That's why we are interested only in entrepreneurs who are serious. We want to build a long term business with you.

With The Pet Pantry, **EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!**

YOU WIN! You become your own boss! You create you own personal wealth and financial Independence.

Hard to Beat Ownership Rewards:

- No ongoing leases/ rentals
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- High potential with unlimited client prospects
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- Low overhead – Homebased business
- Ready customer leads when you start*
- Low start up capital of 350K
- Protected Territories

*For Metro Manila franchisees. Other areas will be discussed during meeting.

THEY WIN! Your customer gets the convenience of a great service and high quality dog food at affordable prices. No more lugging big bag of food home and less visit to the vet. It is no secret that Good Quality Nutrition ensures a healthy and happy pet.

If you qualify in terms of talent, skills, and capital, we have the best opportunity in business franchising today. Take a look at our franchisees that are enjoying themselves in a dynamic, growth driven industry, fueled with even greater future potential.

"With the variety of great products The Pet Pantry offers, coupled with its unique sales and marketing approach, you have the opportunity for significant business growth and achievement at your fingertips."
-Edward Estaelon, 26
The Pet Pantry Makati Franchisee

"My sales has been growing ever since I started my business 3 months ago and there is still a huge market out there for me to tap. Plus I've got the freedom I need to do what I want. I call my shots. It's a great business.
Ojay Briones, 27
The Pet Pantry Marikina Franchisee

Few territories left: A05 Manila. A08 Caloocan. A09 Muntinlupa. A11 Las Pinas. A14 Valenzuela. A15 Malabon. A16 Pasay city. B17 Cebu C18 Davao. F21 Bulacan. G22 Laguna. H23 Cavite. Other Provincial areas are still available.

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World's Leading Bank seeks to offer rewarding long-term career opportunities to highly qualified individuals for the positions of:

Sales Strategy Manager & Channel Manager

Work for a world class call center without the taxing graveyard hours.

For the Sales Strategy Manager position, the ideal candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Graduate of any four (4) year course
- Call center experience in a management capacity
- Pro-active and goal oriented
- Project Management skills
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Good customer service skills
- Works well under pressure

For the Channel Manager position, the ideal candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Graduate of any four (4) year course
- Call center experience in a supervisorial capacity (preferably outbound)
- Sales experience an advantage
- Good people management skills
- Pro-active and goal oriented
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Works well under pressure

In addition to an attractive compensation package which competes with the best in the industry, the successful candidate can look forward to an exciting and challenging career in a highly dynamic organization which ensures superior training and rewards good performance.

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

Country Human Resource Group
RE : "Sales Strategy Manager & Channel Manager"
14/F Citibank Square, No. 1 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City
Libis, Quezon City

This is an urgent requirement. We will respond only to qualified applicants.

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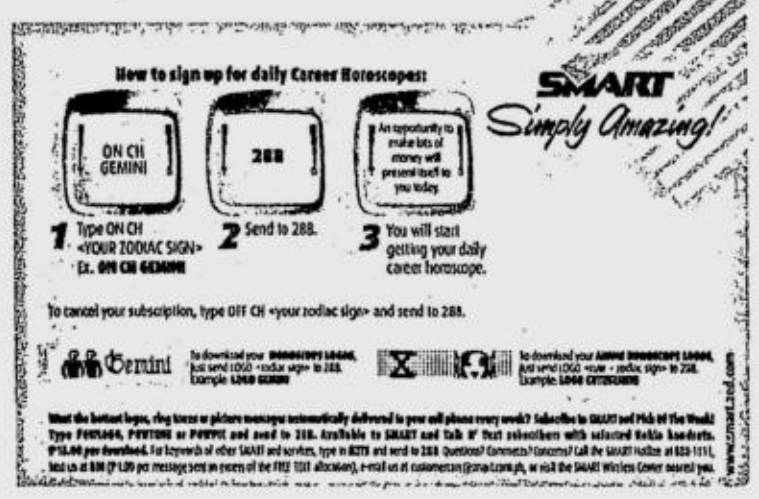

Leap Ahead.

If your Organization...

- Has been operational for more than one fiscal year
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- Has an established client base of managers, professionals, and entrepreneurs
- Has an existing and measurable portfolio of successful projects
- Is a Visionary in the Finance Industry
- Is keen on becoming a Business Partner of the Bank of Choice

Then...

✓ Prepare your business documents (DTI/SEC, Mayor's Permit, Company Profile, etc.*) and send to the mailing address below.

* For organizations with existing partnerships with other institutions, you may submit your business contract in lieu of the SEC/DTI & Mayor's Permit.

Join the Leaders.

If You...

- Have been an Active Consultant for more than one fiscal year
- Have an established client base of managers, professionals, and entrepreneurs
- Have an existing and measurable portfolio of successful projects
- Are a Visionary in the Finance Industry
- Would like to build your own company and develop to become a Business Partner of the Bank of Choice

Then...

✓ Prepare your credentials (Resume, Accounts Portfolio, etc.*) and send to the mailing address below.

Be a Leader.

Mailing Address.
Makati City P.O. Box 2118 Attention: PLD
(Documents must be received on or before June 30, 2003)

Make It Happen.

A TRAVEL & TOUR COMPANY
IS IN **URGENT** NEED OF:

HR OFFICER - Female w/ at least 2 years experience in HR; must have good communication skills and be people oriented. Not more than 30 years of age. College graduate from a good school

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - Young, agrressive, computer literate w/ good command of English language & can handle multi-task responsibility, Communication degree in college preferred.

TRAVEL COORDINATOR - Female w/ experience in travel industry. Tourism graduate preferably from UP. Two years experience in tour operation.

MERCHANDISER - Male w/ experience in merchandising, trading & retailing. College graduate w/ BA degree. Two years experience in the field of merchandising and global distribution of products.

We offer a good compensation package!

Please call Admin @ **887-0550/53/54** for interview appointment.

URGENTLY NEEDED:

Admin Assistant (1)
- male or female, organized, computer literate
- can work w/ minimum supervision
- resourceful
- physically fit

Driver (1)
- 2 years experience
- must have a professional license
- physically fit

Messenger (1)
- physically fit
- owns motorcycle

Computer Personnel (1)
- any Computer Course, male / female
- typing speed atleast (40 wpm)
- knowledge in MS Office and other Window application
- basic knowledge in PC trouble shooting & networking
- physically fit

Liaison Officer (5)
- physically Fit
- willing to work 24/7
- good communication skills
- ability to organize
- hardworking
- computer literate

Please come in business attire Monday - Friday, June 02-06, 2003. Bring your resume & photo w/ character reference at:
23D #8 Wack Wack Rd., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

Executive Assistant (1)
- male / female preferably single
- preferebly w/ law background or law graduate, under-bar ok.
- presentable
- writes good english / computer literate
- willing to travel
- can work 24 hrs/day 7 days a week
- meticulous, hard working
- physically fit

If you meet the above requirements and likes things to happen...
You may e-mail your curriculum vitae to **jbc079@yahoo.com**

A prestigious government institution is in need of the following:

Bank Officer IV/ V/ VI

- Masteral degree; Bachelor's degree in Economics or Math / Bachelor of Laws
- 6-7 yrs. of work exp. in treasury or int'l FX operations (inclusive of 3-5 yrs. in reserve/portfolio mgt./dealing & risk mgt.. preferably with exp. in compliance work), of w/c 4-5 yrs. are in supervision/mgt.
- 24 hrs. trng. in supervision & mgt. w/ Bourse Course
- CSEE / CES / CS Professional Eligibility

CPA/AUDITOR

- With at least 77% Board rating
- 1-2 years exp. in audit work
- Not more than 25 years old

Qualified applicants may call the RECRUITMENT & EXAMINATION DIVISION at tel. no. 525-7778

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WITH CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 15 YRS. OLD

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- willing to work part-time or full-time doing presentation to parents

We offer:
- A FREE seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ, EQ
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- A chance to own our programs for your children at almost NO COST

Come to: Unit 504 Galleria Corporate Center
Robinson Galleria Ortigas Avenue
Monday to Wednesday
9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Please be on time
Bring bio-data with photo

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL and MEDICAL CENTER

286 BLUMENTRITT STREET, STA. CRUZ, MANILA

URGENTLY NEEDS...

LADY CPA

- ✓ BSC graduates of reputable schools
- ✓ Not more than 32 years old
- ✓ Minimum of 5 years accounting and auditing supervisory experience necessary
- ✓ Requires minimum supervision, the candidate is expected to have excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- ✓ Strong analytical and leadership skills
- ✓ Willing to work under extreme pressure and long hours
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Of proven competence and integrity

Please bring the ff: Resumé, Transcript, Diploma, PRC ID, Board Rating, NBI/Police Clearance, 2x2 colored picture, character ref. w/ phone no., personally submit together with original documents to the Personnel Office, Grd. Flr. Main Bldg.

We are inviting aggressive and mature individuals to fill up vacant position as we continue our commitment in giving the best quality of service to our clients.

AUTO CAD OPERATOR

- Male or Female, 22 to 30 years old;
- Civil Engineering or Architecture Graduate;
- Have at least 1 year experience as Auto Cad Operator;
- With knowledge in Auto Cad 2000;
- Hardworking, aggressive and can work with minimum supervision.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may send or submit personally their updated resumé with recent ID picture, NBI clearance, photocopy of transcript of records and certificate of previous employment to:

DN STEEL MARKETING, INC.
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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'I am stressed, tired and miserable at work'

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

By Tita Datu Puangco

I FOUND myself jobless in March 2002 after our company downsized. It was very sudden. It was a very big blow to me since I had been working two months before graduation. I never thought of taking a "break" after graduation, like most students do.

After six months of forced vacation, job hunting, and interviews, I finally found a job in a small publishing firm with only 20 employees. It was a Christian company, a non-stock, non-profit company, led by a group of missionaries.

It seemed like a good start at that time, although it was way below what I was used to—we hold offices in a house that creaked at the seams, the equipment was dingy—but it was better than being unemployed. Or so I thought.

The company had also gone through downsizing and was now leaner. When I was taken in, I was told by my interviewer/superior that I would be part of the editorial and be in charge of certain publications. Eight months later, I find myself buckling under the extreme pressure. Our group leaders decided to embark on more projects even on our very limited funds (we are a non-stock, non-profit organization) such as provincial events, TV spots, etc. And they added more publications. Currently, I'm handling five publications and the company's corporate website.

Because of all these responsibilities, my work has started to suffer. The demands have been unceasing and this situation has caused me to delay doing other tasks in favor of the ones that were deemed "urgent" for that day by my superior. I had been given two memos for my lapses which I unflinchingly accepted.

I am now thinking of resigning. If I should push through with it, I will have stayed only nine months. Wouldn't this be an issue when I apply for new job? Also, my family has advised me to just "grin and bear it," saying I am still lucky I have a job when others have none. But my gut-feel about this whole thing is about my happiness and my growth. I feel there is no career growth for me here; there is no satisfaction despite the fact that we are spreading the Word of God.

Is it right that I should leave? I'm trying to do my best but there is simply too much and I am only one person. There is no one else to delegate the work to. I'm stressed, I'm tired, miserable and unhappy. What do I do? Thank you for your advice and believe me, you are a blessing to us career people.

Miserable Employee

Thank you for your letter. It is terrible how today we start to lose our balance because of too much work, very little time and conflicting priorities. Sometimes, we think we have no choice but " to grin and bear it". But precisely, the beauty of the human being lies in his ability to exercise his free will. You have choices in front of you.

The past months, I felt the same way. I was burdened with much work. In our company, we try to live the "rainbow life" where we try to balance the different aspects of life. These aspects are work, relationships, health, time for God, caring for the environment, continuous learning and communications. I realized I was a poor model of the balanced life. I was working 12 hours a day and feeling miserable. Today, after two months, I feel liberated and delighted because I started to make decisions about my work and my life.

What steps did I take? First of all, I prayed. I ask the Lord to take control of my life. Praying allowed me to center my mind and heart. The state of relaxation allowed me to be creative about my situation. With my husband, we took some days off, going out of town.

Then, I analyzed my situa-

'I AM STRESSED/K-10

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Concrete jungle is a complex world

POSTCARDS *from the* CORPORATE EDGE

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Resty S. Odon

"THIS is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about this, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!"

Thus goes an office anecdote from Joke-of-the-Day.com, the "daily joke network" online, which shows how complicated the work world can get.

Uncomfortable work world

We know that the corporate world in the heart of the concrete jungle is not just a simple affair of steel and stone, glass and glare, cold bodies and warm cups of coffee. It is an environment that can get too complex for comfort. It can't help but compel people to feel, well, complicated. It is only logical that we expect a highly urbanized place to be inhabited by highly civilized people. But why is it constantly being referred to as the concrete jungle?

Charades

To explain things quite simply (as though we didn't know), it is the elaborate dance of charades that makes living in the concrete jungle feel like hell—people interacting in doublespeak, meandering gibberish, double entendres, and non-verbal nuances—the crossed feet, the seating arrangement, the lowering of the eyelash, the subtle snobbery—everything all too often loaded with meaning. So loaded that even when things get silent, the silence can be quite deafening. Words left unsaid leave you with an unsettling sentiment. There grows a nascent air of suspicion, a suspicion that soon turns positive, then negative, then ambivalent.

Behind each other's back, people unmask the hatred hidden by becoming utterly violent in speech, badmouthing each other as though words can kill. (As indeed they do in the inevitable resignations, terminations, betrayals of trust, and protracted litigation.) Sooner or later, the façade of civility crumbles and things turn beastly, until you yourself say with conviction, "Man, it's a jungle in here."

Blaming

We blame it on the office hierarchy, which never fails to let us know our place. Or we blame it on the competition, which always keeps us on our toes. Or we blame it on the pressure to beat the deadline, to meet the quota, to attain the bottom line. We never blame ourselves. It's the system, we say.

We are quite correct in our diagnosis. We wouldn't be complaining, and we wouldn't feel constrained and aggravated if we could do something about it, would we? When it's not the complexity of human interaction, it's the high level of non-interaction, the zero human contact. Technology rules and an alien nation reigns, filled of unfeeling "automatons," born specifically to toil all their lives or else risk termination when they are "non-productive."

Falling apart

CONCRETE JUNGLE/K-12

Space for grace

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

HOW does "receive the Holy Spirit" sound to you who, first thing in the morning, on your way to work, get bombarded by messages on billboards that won't allow you to even think of spirit, let alone the holy variety? Sounds Greek? Seems impossible?

Would you really care about receiving something as nebulous as a spirit in a world that screams it's much more fun to buy this, eat that, wear this, own that? Over at Guadalupe Bridge alone, Alicia Silverstone, Lea Salonga, Mandy Moore, and a host of other celebrities sell pricey wearables. Further down Edsa, Patricia Javier flaunts her melons on an overpass and entices you to call her and hear her stories—for 10 pesos per minute. Elsewhere there's Joyce Jimenez in a nightie trying to steal the thunder from Patricia with the same sales pitch. With all these attention grabbers trying to make a go for your paycheck even before you earn it, would there still be room left in you for a gaseous entity like the Holy Spirit?

Yes, and yes again, if you knew that your very happiness and abundance depended on it. But you have to dispose yourself for it.

Like the power in the electric cables that won't work for us unless we turn on the switch, the Holy Spirit needs our cooperation to effect changes in our life—just a small effort, really, like wanting it. Remember the song "Come, Holy Spirit...?" Making room for its presence in us is the first step to receiving the Holy Spirit. Giving it space will lead us to grace.

(Email the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel John 20:19-23

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."

Power of the Spirit

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WHEN Jesus "breathed" on His disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit, they were transformed from simple and fearful men into men possessing the gifts of the Spirit—men with "joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (fruits of the Spirit). They worked miracles and wonders, testifying to the power of the Holy Spirit. Do we still witness this power at work in our world today?

We may not be apostles or special people handpicked by Jesus Himself, but as the Scriptures teach, we, as human beings, received from God the "breath of life," the Spirit of God. When we work joyfully and not grudgingly, we show that our job can be a source of happiness and contentment. When we show kindness and gentleness to our irritable boss or to our hardheaded partners, we proclaim that the spirit of love inspires our relationships with others. When we practice self-control in handling escalating conflicts with employers or co-workers, we value the peace process more than destructive confrontation. When we patiently endure the hardships of our assignment and faithfully accomplish our task, we demonstrate that there is a superior kind of strength far greater than the physical—the power of the Spirit.

We therefore can show the fruits of the Spirit in our world particularly in the workplace where we spend most of our waking hours. We may not be doing earth shaking deeds or get to breaking news, yet the real wonders of the Spirit could be experienced live in our ordinary work environment.

(E-mail the author mfvg@skyinet.net)

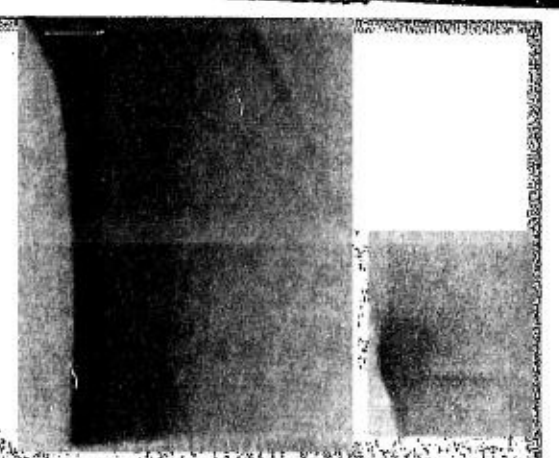
sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

June 8, 2003

Girl On Film

Alessandra de Rossi



Now on her own and still very much her outspoken and talented actress is suddenly red-hot property as the internationally-acclaimed film *'Mga Munting Tinig'* finally comes to local screens on July 2

by Ruel S. De Vera

Photographs by Mark Alcoseba

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Alessandra

...from page 1

Going places: As "Munting Tinig's" Melinda, below left; Alex says she knew the movie would go far as soon as she read the script, right

her brother-in-law and the way he was involved in Assunta's career. Once close (Alex used to call Assunta her "baby"), the two sisters drifted apart and remain estranged.

But throughout that crisis, Alex was taking a, well, dramatic step to stardom. Taking a leap of faith, she agreed to take on the lead role in Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig," *an inspiring story of how a grade school teacher named Melinda helps her wards gain hope through the power of music. Alex volunteers that working with Portes himself was the best thing about the experience. Lovingly shot and produced by Portes' own Teamwork Productions,* "Mga Munting Tinig" *went on to win honors at the Palm Beach International Film Festival, was named official Filipino Foreign Language Film entry to the last Academy Awards, was screened at the Toronto and Bangkok International Film Festivals and was selected by the prestigious American Film Institute as one of the 10 New Asian Classics. Alex actually saw her film premiered in Hollywood's ArcLight theater complex, something very few Filipinas can even hope for. Add to that the movie's being deemed best picture by the Star, Urian and Famas Awards. This month,* "Mga Munting Tinig" *will unspool at the Moscow International Film Festival. Impressed by the movie, movie giant Warner Bros. has picked up the film, making it their first ever Filipino acquisition and, after the movie's dizzying itinerary, brings it home for a triumphant welcome run in Metro Manila theaters beginning July 2.*

All this has left Alex the toast of international movie-lovers. Dubbed by one Canadian paper as "the next Penelope Cruz," Alex has received offers from Hollywood—and has even been connected with a possible Brad Pitt film. "Who doesn't want to go to Hollywood?" she says. "But I don't like auditions." Yes, this acting awardee hates auditions because she doesn't like being watched by so many people. Seriously. "It's fine as long as there are no auditions. Of course I want to make it big in Hollywood, but that's not my top priority right now."

She wants to stay close to home. Now, she is kept extremely busy by her new regular stint on the GMA-7 sitcom "Kool Ka Lang" *and shooting Portes' next movie, in which she portrays a SARS victim. All the while, Alex is now self-sufficient and living on her own, as her mother has flown back to Italy to care for their younger siblings Isabel and Margharita.*

It's been a heady career for someone so young, but the feisty Alex, who is a hardcore Eminem fan, is obviously not your typical showbiz personality. "I hope people understand that, when I'm portraying a role, I'm working hard in a decent job. I'm not doing drugs or anything bad, so whatever I do in my private life, that's really none of their business." That makes her rare—an actress who values being forthright. There is so much on her plate right now, but as Alex tells SIM *in her trademark mix of frankness and fearlessness, it's nothing she can't handle.*

Sunday Inquirer Magazine: You went to Hollywood to watch the premiere of *"Mga Munting Tinig."* How did your big Hollywood adventure go?
Alessandra: Okay *naman*. I didn't enjoy it too much because it was raining.

SIM: You've had your share of romantic comedy roles, but you seem to be gravitating to more difficult, unusual roles as a method actress, staying in character on set. Why is that?
Alessandra: I don't know, really. *(Laughs)* It just happened. Beginning when I won for "*Azucena,*" people think that if it's serious, it's for me, but if it's a cutie role, it's not for me. So my packaging is that I'm a dramatic actress now.

SIM: In *"Mga Munting Tinig,"* Gil Portes cast you as a grade school teacher. Were you worried you were too young to play the part?
Alessandra: Yeah! But then they said Melinda was a fresh college graduate at 19 and I was 17 when I did that role so they made me up to look older. I think it worked *naman*.

SIM: While other younger actresses were off making box office hits, you were shooting this quiet movie. Were you worried at all about it not being commercial enough?
Alessandra: No, I read the script so I knew. I could see that the movie had direction and that it would go far.

SIM: Are you surprised by how successful the movie has been?
Alessandra: *Oo!* I thought that it would be like "Azucena," screened here and there. I mean, "Azucena" went far, but this movie did even better.

SIM: You've done so many different kinds of movies at 18. Would you say you're in love with the movies?
Alessandra: *Oo*, but it's also tiring. Not the acting, but the showbiz life. So my plan is maybe stay around for five more years, I'll save up and then I can live a quiet life.

SIM: For someone with such great performances behind her, why do you have such a problem with doing kissing scenes?
Alessandra: Yuck—*kadiri*! You don't love the guy and so many people are watching.

SIM: But you have no problem with that in private?
Alessandra: No (smiles).

SIM: What do you want to accomplish in five years' time?
Alessandra: I want to earn enough to buy a private plane *(laughs)*! And I want to win the grand slam of Best Actress awards. They would be enough for me. Oh, and I want to be able to play my dream role of a mermaid.

SIM: What kind of a quiet life do you see for yourself?
Alessandra: I don't know yet, but I'll probably be in a business of some sort. I also want to be a model but they said I'm too short. They want someone who's 5'11". I also want to be a teacher, maybe open my own pre-school.

SIM: On the sibling front, how are things between you and your sister Assunta?
Alessandra: Nothing, still the same.

SIM: When you were younger, you were very protective regarding your sister. Do you still feel that way about her?
Alessandra: Yeah. I'm always worried about her safety. Since we were younger, I really would protect her from those picking a fight with her. I cooked the food when she got up. I took care of her as if she were my own child. And then, all of the sudden, you're not sure about the man she's chosen to be with.

SIM: The whole country has watched you sisters fight. How do you feel about that?
Alessandra: I'm fine with it. I don't know about how she feels. She's the one who comes out looking bad, so I don't know about her.

SIM: So do you think the two of you will be talking soon?
Alessandra: Not anytime soon.

SIM: You've already developed a reputation for being frank to the point of tactlessness. Are you proud of this or not?
Alessandra: Proud, of course, because I'm human, too. That would be so fake of me—when it's not all right with me but I say it is. I get mad, too. I get hurt, too.

SIM: But you're in showbiz...
Alessandra: I don't care! That's why Eminem is so popular because he tells the truth even when he knows it might hurt others. I'm not like that, but I really value who I am.

SIM: You're living alone now. Are you used to being on your own?
Alessandra: I'm used to it because I've always known I wasn't the favorite daughter. My mom watches over Assunta and the youngest. My dad watches over Assunta and the third one. I'm used to it.

SIM: What's the best thing about living alone?
Alessandra: There's always a party at home!

SIM: And the worst?
Alessandra: Bills! I have a headache because of all the bills!

SIM: Considering everything you've said and been through lately, what kind of man do you think you would marry?
Alessandra: It's all right if he's shorter than me. It's all right that he's not handsome or rich. The important thing is for him to understand me because I'm really different.

SIM: So do you enjoy being an artista?
Alessandra: Sometimes.

SIM: So why do you stay in showbiz then?
Alessandra: Because I've grown to love it, of course! Then there's also the money, and it's better than studying!

SIM: How do you maintain your fierce need to be yourself amid everything in showbiz?
Alessandra: I just don't care about those things. Of course my manager Manny Valera is always there to lecture me. But this is the way I am. I can't change for anybody.

SIM: Do you miss your privacy?
Alessandra: Yes, but it's also nice being in showbiz—you get special treatment when you're an *artista*.

SIM: Who do you think is the better actress, you or your sister?
Alessandra: Me! That's what lots of people say. Of course, it's me because I'm always the best in my own universe.

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CHINA AND CLAY AT THE MET In celebration of Filipino-Chinese friendship day, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila presents "China and Clay: Recent Works by Chinese Ceramic Artists," featuring contemporary pottery pieces from the Peoples Republic of China. The exhibit is on view at the Met's upper level galleries until August 5. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

LOVELLA'S NEXT MOVES

In behalf of the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies of the DLSU-College of Saint Benilde, I would like to extend our appreciation for the feature on our student Ms Lovella Catalan in your June 1 issue (**SIM**, June 1, 2003). Ms Joy Rojas' article gave us an opportunity to show your readers the unique talents of deaf students like Lovella as well as efforts being done to help them become more productive members of society.

I would like to make a little clarification, though, that Ms Catalan has already used her eligible years as a varsity member of our NCAA teams while she pursued her certificate degree in the late '90s. While pursuing her Bachelor's Degree, she is currently participating in tennis and bowling competitions here and abroad, although these are no longer officially part of the school's varsity program.

I am making this clarification to make sure that there won't be any confusion with regards to DLSU-CSB's participation in the NCAA. It is to our knowledge that the said league is quite strict with eligibility rules on participating student-athletes.

Thank you very much and more power to SIM!

ERIC DANIEL L. SORIANO
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MAXENE TO THE MAX

I want to speak highly of Maxene Magalona (**SIM**, May 18, 2003). She is a magnificent young lady. She has a clear perspective of the real world. Most teens are in a hurry, and it's hard for them to accept reality, but Maxene is not one of them. She does not only have that perfect physical look, but also an awesome personality. Keep it up, girl!

AILEEN GRACE JIMENEZ-CONTRERAS
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ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

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kids, families, and kites together

The sheer joy of flying a kite is a memory from childhood that grownups cherish. In fact, some people say that if you never flew a kite when you were a kid, your childhood was not complete. The experience of launching a kite into the breeze, the string tugging at your hands on a fine summer day, with the sun and the wind on your face, is priceless. When an adult looks at a kite dancing in the sky, the feeling brings back recollections of carefree childhood days. Some adults continue to fly kites simply because it is so much fun and it is an activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Every year, a summer event is held in ten cities all over the Philippines, bringing together kids and families to admire kites or compete with their own entries, for a whole day of great fun. The event is the country's biggest kite-flying festival ongoing since 1991, sponsored by BEAR BRAND, the ideal family milk.

This year, BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2003, which had opened with the first leg in Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental last February, recently filled the skies over the Rizal Park ih Manila on Mother's Day, with kites of all colors, shapes and sizes, during the final leg of the event.

According to James Seguerra, the Events Manager of Nestlé Philippines for the BEAR BRAND Kitefest, the event gives kite-makers the chance to display their creative talents in designing and flying kites, one of the oldest pastimes in the world. The winning entries of the BEAR BRAND Kitefest are recognized with trophies, cash prizes and Nestlé gift packs. The Kitefest has six divisions. Elementary participants aged 6 to 12, and high school students aged 13 to 16, can join the Flat Kite Divisions, with 2-dimensional or two-faced kites in any shape. College students aged 17 to 21, and adults 22 and above, are eligible for the Geometric Kite Divisions with 3-dimensional kites with basic shapes, string, combination, or train kites, and the Figure Kite Divisions with 3-dimensional kites with themes and realistic shapes.

Other prizes are the Super Kite Award for the biggest kite, and the *Saranggola ni* BEAR BRAND Award for the best flying kite during the free-flying period.

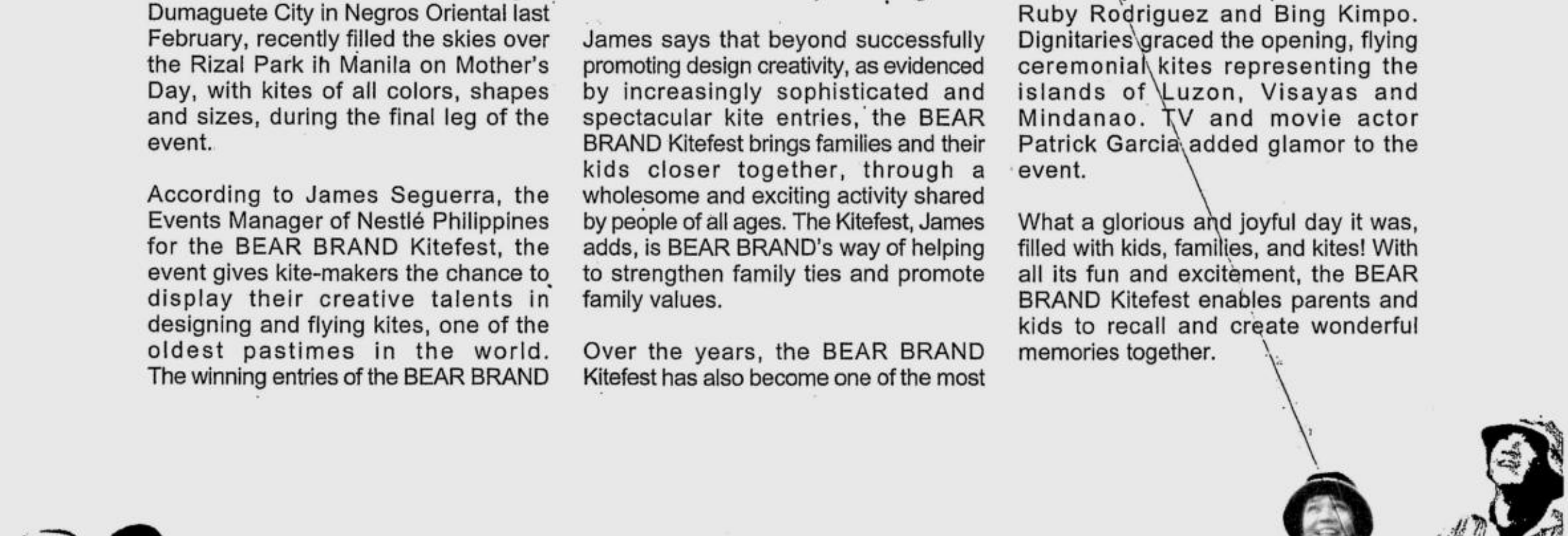
This year, the Kitefest also introduced four new categories, each with a special prize. These are the *Saranggola ng Barangay* Award, open to barangays in the region; the Theme Kite Award for the best flying kite to represent the region; the Favorite of the Crowd Award for the kite with the most audience impact; and the Family Spotting Award, where four families spotted at the event were invited to fly a kite together.

James says that beyond successfully promoting design creativity, as evidenced by increasingly sophisticated and spectacular kite entries, the BEAR BRAND Kitefest brings families and their kids closer together, through a wholesome and exciting activity shared by people of all ages. The Kitefest, James adds, is BEAR BRAND's way of helping to strengthen family ties and promote family values.

Over the years, the BEAR BRAND Kitefest has also become one of the most eagerly awaited events of the summer in the cities where it is held. Since the Kitefest started, it has registered more than 20,000 entries and thousands of spectators during every leg. There have been legs with as many as 1,000 kites entered.

During the most recent final leg at the Rizal Park, new attractions made the Kitefest even more spectacular. In the morning before the event started, lucky families were given free rides on two hot air balloons. Kids also had fun at the NIDO Bouncy Castle. An exhibit of stunt kites was held by Kite Team Philippines led by Jing Torno, capturing the attention of people with kites that flew in precise formation, like jets at an air show. BEAR BRAND mascots Mama Bear and Baby Bear were on hand to pose for pictures with families and children. Cheerleaders from the University of Sto. Tomas and a unit from the Armed Forces of the Philippines presented demonstration numbers that entertained the crowd. The event was hosted by broadcast personalities Ruby Rodriguez and Bing Kimpo. Dignitaries graced the opening, flying ceremonial kites representing the islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. TV and movie actor Patrick Garcia added glamor to the event.

What a glorious and joyful day it was, filled with kids, families, and kites! With all its fun and excitement, the BEAR BRAND Kitefest enables parents and kids to recall and create wonderful memories together.



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Artwatch

By Alya B. Honasan

The Art of Fatherhood

RANDY HORMILLOSA

IN THE fringes of Mario de Rivera's delightful painting "Perfect Age," a 2003 oil, acrylic, modeling paste and photo transfer paean to the joy of marking a recent birthday, the artist has added several photo transfers. Part icons and part mini-artworks in themselves, with their generous dashes of faux gold leaf and swirls of modeling paste patterns, they appear like a series of images from a happy life, a gallery of its obvious inspirations—De Rivera's wife Luz traveling, his nephew and niece in costume, and, most central and conspicuous of all, a smiling portrait of his nine-year-old son Lorenzo.

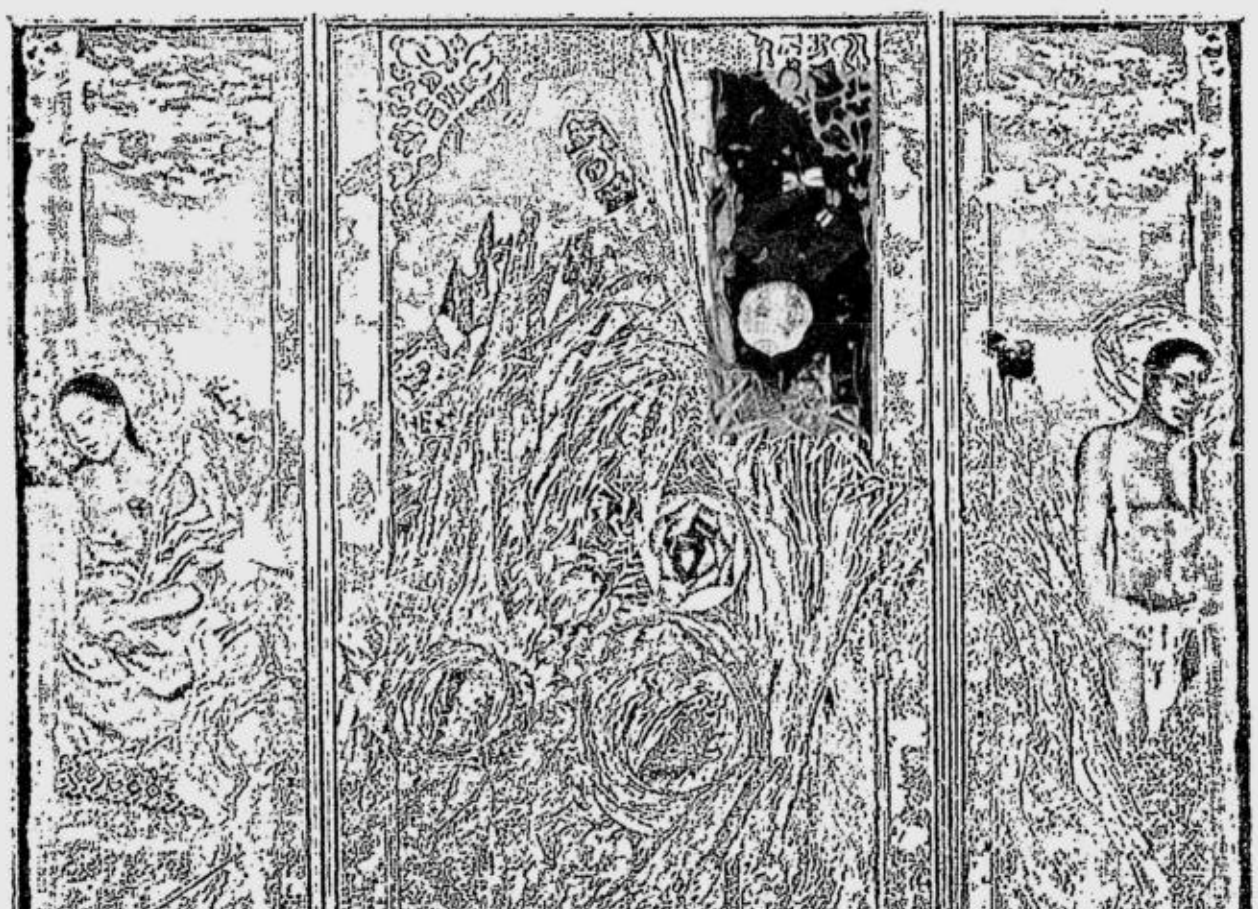
As the proud father now recounts, Lorenzo was thrilled at his starring role. "He told my wife, 'I'm so proud Papa put me on the front of his painting. I have to invite my teachers and classmates so they will see!'"

There's a warm, interesting discrepancy between Mario de Rivera's work and the world he lives in. The paintings are scenes from a magical fantasy milieu, full of larger-than-life plants, Gauguinesque nymphs, shimmering Arabic patterns intersecting with Oriental lines. In "Perfect Age," a cloud of chaotic color and texture mounted with a European court scene floats above a pastoral background of mountains, sky, and curious mortals. In "*Nuestro Eden Perdido*," a richly-embellished cry against the demise of the natural and innocent, mutated flowers meet spaceships and modern icons like rhum bottle labels, fabric swatches and postage stamps, flanked by a Madonna and child and a *bahag*-clad denizen of simpler times and places.

This last triptych, in fact, joins several others on exhibit in "Fragments of Incantations," De Rivera's much-awaited

Mario de Rivera's paintings may look enigmatic and mysterious, but this doting husband and dad actually finds greatest inspiration in the joys of everyday domesticity

first exhibit since 1998, which opens today at the Hiraya Gallery on UN Avenue, Manila. It also comes to the viewer with formidable credentials; last March, "*Eden*" won the Excellence Award at the 2003 Beppu Contemporary Art Exhibition in Japan, besting over a thousand entries from all over the world. Not bad for a guy who, by his own admission, doesn't know when to stop working. "That's my problem!" De Rivera laughs, pointing to "Perfect Age." "If Didi (Dee of Hiraya Gallery) didn't tell me she was picking up this painting at 9 a.m., I would have kept on going!"



The winning "Nuestro Perdido Eden," mixed media, 2002

When De Rivera is described in write-ups as "reclusive" and "unspoiled by commercial success," it's hardly because he's off in the mountains living the life of a solitary aesthete. Instead, it's a very grounded life spent "taking care of my family. Last year, when my wife was in Australia for a while, I had to get Lorenzo ready for school, take him to taekwondo class. This summer, it was swimming lessons." The dedication was not lost on his biggest fan. "Lorenzo once told me I was the best dad in the world because I could make these wonderful paintings, and still be with them all the time," De Rivera notes happily. "You know, I do look at other dads all the time and wonder if they're having fun with their families. There are trade-offs, of course. I don't earn as much as they do, but I'm always there for my son. That's something money can't buy."

De Rivera also came upon his current style in an unusual way; he and then-girlfriend Luz were making cakes, intricately designed confections that became a huge hit among the Manila crowd. "My mom always made nice cakes, and I liked eating them. Then Luz and I saw these beautiful English porcelain cakes, and we taught ourselves how to make them." The enterprise lasted a couple of years, even as De Rivera, a University of Santo Tomas Fine Arts graduate, was already painting on the side. It was only later that he began painting full-time. He had had his first exhibit at the Solidaridad Gallery in Manila in 1976, and joined several group exhibitions before finding home ground in Hiraya.

Although he majored in advertising and had worked in the industry in China and the Middle East, De Rivera knew early on that a 9-to-5 job was not his cup of tea. His father was a lawyer, but it was his art teacher mother whose genes he inherited, he claims. "Even as a kid, I knew I would get into something creative. I already knew what oil paint smelled like."

De Rivera is as easy-going as they come about his artistic intentions, leaving people to interpret his works in any way they wish. "I like to keep them guessing. I love contradictions, anyway." He confesses to having some difficulty talking about his work and would rather let his feelings move him, sometimes working on several canvases at the same time and working best under pressure, when he becomes "more spontaneous." The detailed intricacy of De Rivera's fabulous cakes lives again on the canvas, with the modeling paste looking like it was squeezed out of a pastry bag, good enough to eat.

Although it took Hiraya almost five years to pin De Rivera down for this exhibit, he still won't commit to a next one. "It depends on when I have the time. We'd still like to travel as a family, when we can afford it." Does Lorenzo show any signs of following in his footsteps? "He wants to be a veterinarian, but he draws very well, especially Japanese cartoons," De Rivera gushes. "In fact, we worked together on a painting once. It was sold!"

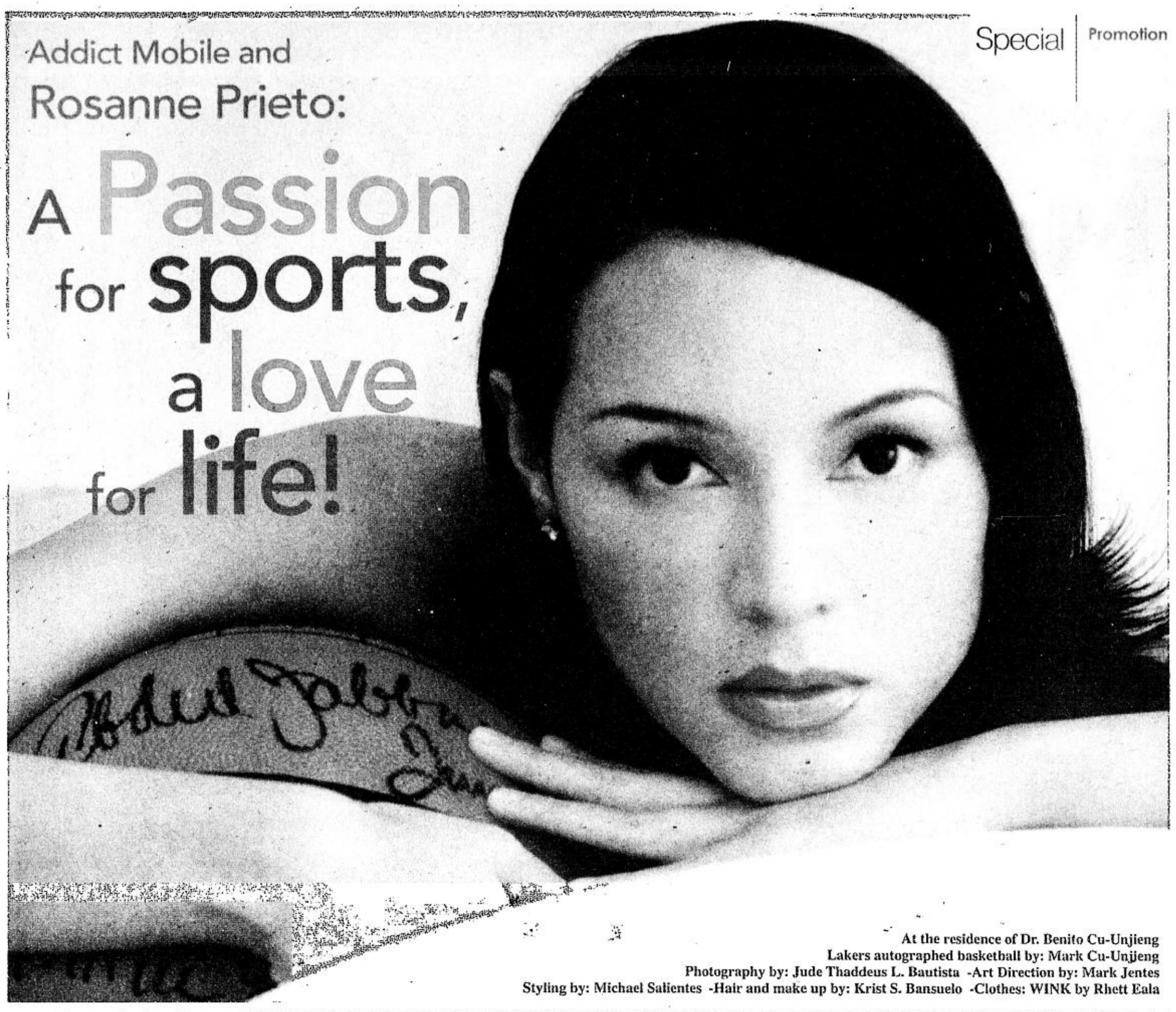
With Lorenzo in Sydney, Australia, 1999

"Fragments of Incantations" runs until June 25.

Addict Mobile and

Rosanne Prieto:

A Passion for sports, a love for life!



At the residence of Dr. Benito Cu-Unjieng
Lakers autographed basketball by: Mark Cu-Unjieng
Photography by: Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista -Art Direction by: Mark Jentes
Styling by: Michael Salientes -Hair and make up by: Krist S. Bansuelo -Clothes: WINK by Rhett Eala

Let's cut to the chase. Rosanne Prieto is drop-dead gorgeous. At first when the new AddictMobile campaign described her as such, one would think, "Well isn't that a tad cliché—'drop-dead gorgeous'?" Gorgeous women especially in fashion and advertising today are a dime a dozen, thanks to better nutrition and a blessed improvement in the gene pool. It takes a special oomph for the "drop-dead" qualification in gorgeous. It's a defining experience to see it fleshed out in the guise of Rosanne.

At a tender age, Rosanne Prieto was thrust into national sports consciousness by becoming the youngest and arguably the most beautiful female manager of a pro basketball team, the Pampanga Dragons. This was a heady and memorable time in her life. "The MBA was the first time fans felt that the teams were really theirs," she explains.

"There's no book written for running a team," she confides, "no schools for coaching." Although she did read the MBA manual "from cover to cover" just to get a technical feel. Aside from that, everything she did for and with the team was done "based on instinct and guts."

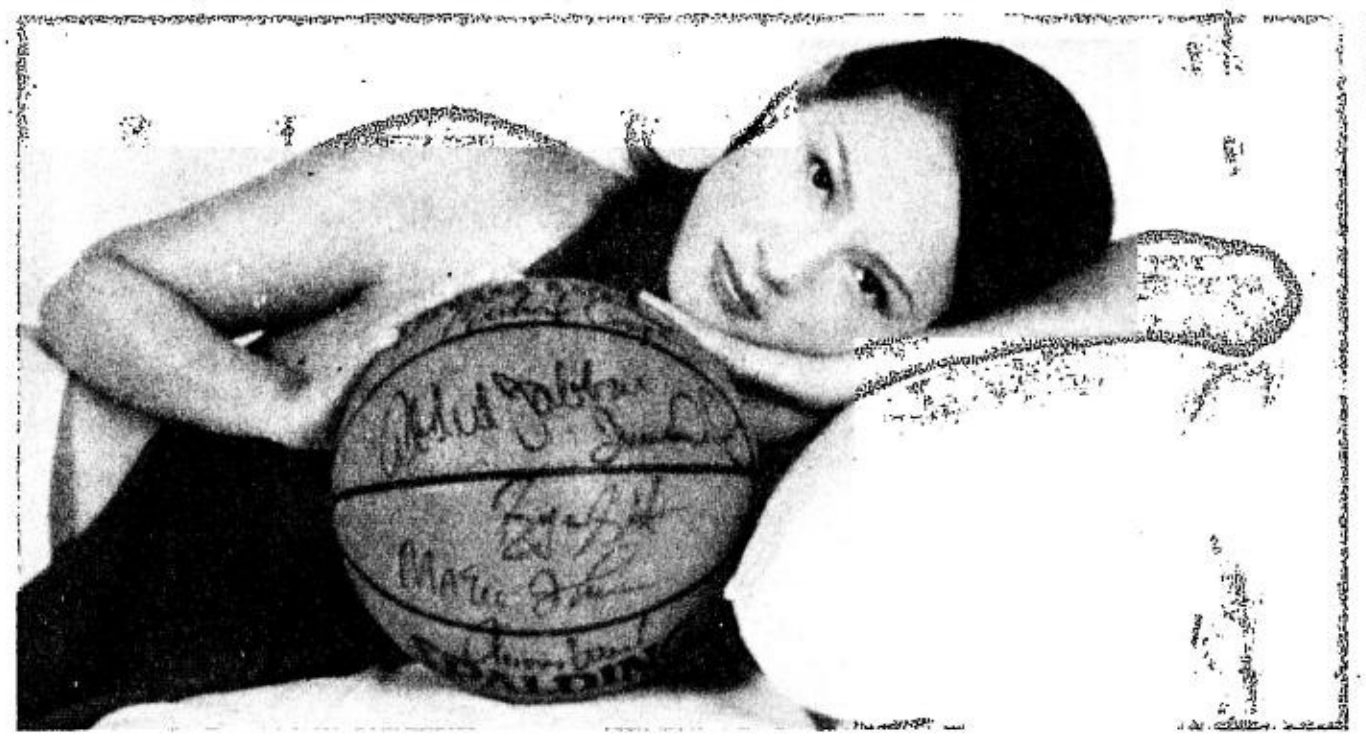
Guts don't come short for this pretty lady. At one point the entire team and management confronted their latest challenge in a team-building exercise, a sheer 60-foot cliff face negotiated by swinging from rope to rope, each rope further from the last. Never mind that this was all to be done with safety harnesses, apparently it was harrowing enough to make even 6-foot-six power forwards balk. Why isn't it surprising then that the first hand to shoot up for volunteers would be Rosanne's? Apparently there are witnesses to this, photographer Arney Nocum among them. "Yeah you were the first one up there," he tells her. She smiles and shoots back, "And I went up there solo."

This is the one thing about Rosanne that makes her so appealing and so intriguing. Close your eyes save for notes in her voice, you might as well be talking to your best pal on the couch in front of your living room TV, shooting the breeze on anything in the wide world of sports. She's as engaging personally as visually, warm and impish, intelligent and real.

So it follows that the exciting new service AddictMobile signs up such a trailblazer. "AddictMobile is the first product or service that adjusts and tailors itself to me," she gushes, "I can get any sports information on the go, and I get it instantly." Sports isn't her only addiction, she shares the same passions for travel, fashion ("Faux or real fur coats ala Lenny Kravitz") or glamour. Whatever it may be, AddictMobile will give her the lowdown, "One click and the info is all right there."

So far the experience with AddictMobile has been a rich and rewarding one, "I was there for the launch in Boracay, the Smart guys were really cool and accomodating. AddictMobile makes life more interesting, and it gives me what I want to know right away."

And as AddictMobile serves up the latest sports scores to sports addicts like Rosanne, life will also become easier. No more early-morning text messages to Rosanne from the guys, who may have missed the ongoing playoffs. "I got so many this morning on the San Antonio-Dallas game," she shares. AddictMobile will make us all a little bit like Rosanne. She is after all mobile, connected, active, exceptionally multi-faceted. And above it all, Rosanne always knows the score.



Rosanne's Addict Mobile Menu

How does Rosanne get her latest flash report on the NBA? On her Addict cellphone all she has to do is:

Go to Addict Menu

Click on [ ] Sports

Click on [ ] Basketball

Click on [ ] NBA

Click on [ ] News

Click on [ ] Headlines

ADVT.

Movers and Shakers

Text and photographs by Fe B. Zamora

Mayor in the Hot Seat

"THEY can go on double, triple alert, I don't care. That's only in the papers," she shrugs her shoulders. And Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat, the chief executive of Zamboanga City, is correct. Aside from the usual checkpoints, there is no additional display of force in the city.

It was Dia de Zamboanga, and the city had prepared a three-day festival to mark Zamboanga Hermosa's 66th founding day. *Tita* Caling, as the mayor is fondly called, was determined not to allow anyone to spoil the activities.

In her trademark *mascota* dress and matching *zapatillas*, the mayor directed the activities. There was samba dancing in the morning, a garden exhibit at noon, a cheering-dance contest in the afternoon and a cultural event in the evening. The mayor then opened Tausug artist Rameer Tawasil's solo art show at the Garden Orchid Hotel the next day. A fashion show and a grand, cultural parade followed. Despite *Tita* Caling's optimism, policemen lined the city's major arteries for the parade.

In October 15 last year, bombs blasted two department stores, killing seven and injuring almost a hundred. A bomb was also set off at the gate of the Fort Pilar shrine two days later, killing three, including a soldier. Weeks before that, on October 2, a bomb killed an American serviceman and three Filipinos at a food outlet in Malagutay in the outskirts of the city. The bombings had all but spoiled the city's annual October 8 feast day.

The bombings, plus the kidnap-for-ransom-spree by the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo and Basilan islands, have plunged the home of the postcard-pretty Pasonanca Park treehouse into a wasteland with zero tourists and a tattered reputation. Mayor Lobregat, however, has been fighting back, rallying the people to unite against the terrorists and to cooperate with authorities by tipping off the presence of "suspicious persons" in the neighborhood.

She also fought back with words. When foreign journalists covering the hostage situation and the joint RP-US Balikatan (shoulder to shoulder) war games asked for her reaction on the decline of tourism in Zamboanga, Mayor Lobregat shot back: "I don't know about you, but what are you doing here?"

Indeed, how else would one call this army of camera-and-satellite-phone toting beer-drinkers who had descended upon the city? The mayor continues: "They stay in hotels, they dine in the best restaurants. They hire vehicles and guides. They are tourists as far as I am concerned." She continues: "The media is always looking for bad things. What we have here is bad perception, bad press."

In fact, she says, local tourism has never been this good. Danny Lim, the youthful manager of Grand Astoria Hotel, confirms this. "We do not cater to foreign tourists. There are always medical sales representatives, bank auditors, traders and groups giving seminars," Lim says. A streamer announces what's going on at the hotel: an e-business seminar. And before that? A sold-out concert by Basilan-born singer Patricia Alano.

Ma. Clara Rafols Lorenzo Lobregat has known politics even as a child. Her father, Don Pablo Lorenzo, was a former mayor of Zamboanga City. He was also Zamboanga's representative to the first Philippine Assembly and delegate to the first constitutional convention that drafted the 1935 constitution. (Her mother, Luisa Rafols, was a beauty from Cebu.)

The second in a brood of five, Caling grew up shuttling between Zamboanga, Cebu and Manila. She would be her father's constant companion in political functions. In 1935, a 15-year-old Caling stood behind President Manuel Luis Quezon as he signed the city charter of Zamboanga.

The mayor studied in Pilar College, then went on to Maryknoll and St. Scholastica's, both in Manila. During the second world war, she volunteered as a nurse at the Remedios Hospital in Malate where she met a handsome fellow volunteer named Celso Lobregat. They were married in 1945 and she became, according to her, "an ordinary wife, but not really ordinary." She was involved in the coconut industry as the Lorenzos own vast coconut lands. In May 1968, Lobregat died in a plane crash, leaving Caling a widow with six children.

Her political career began in 1971 when she was elected delegate to the Constitutional Convention. She remembers former senator Raul Roco and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon among the "younger delegates just starting their families. I became *ninang* (godmother) to their children!" She then ran for the Batasang Pambansa but lost the race to the colorful Cesar Climaco. In 1987, she was elected Zamboanga's representative in the Lower House and would serve for three continuous terms, attending sessions wearing her trademark *kimona* dress. In May 1998, she was elected mayor of Zamboanga, the first woman ever elected for the post. Her son, Celso Jr., would represent the city's lone district in Congress.

"My dream is to bring Zamboanga City back to its old glory," she says. The old Zamboanga was clean and peaceful, with colorful flowers bursting just about everywhere. The sunset was breathtaking, and the women even more enchanting. The streets were lively, enlivened by the singsong Chavacano chatter.

Zamboanga's decline began in the '70s with the MNLF war. In 1974, the first Tausug *mujaheddin* (warriors), chanting "*Allahu-Akbar*!" faced the might of government forces in raging battles in Jolo that forced thousands of civilians to flee to Zamboanga City. Refugees from nearby towns tripled the city's transient population. Squatter colonies mushroomed, and with it came the usual headaches of unemployment and rising criminality. In 1989, crime suspect Rizal Alih held a police general and two others hostage at the police regional headquarters in Cawacawa. In the early '90s, a homemade bomb blasted a ship that docked at the city's port, leaving a number of Christian missionaries either dead or wounded. The attack may have appeared isolated to some, but spawned the seed of a new breed of Muslim militancy.

From the early '90s and onward, journalists would be filing stories, datelined Zamboanga City, about the kidnappings of Belgian and Filipino Catholic priests, Spanish nuns, Taiwanese and Fil-Chinese businessmen, Hong Kong traders and even ordinary public school teachers by the Abu Sayyaf. The group attained global notoriety when it raided the Sipadan dive resort in Malaysia in April, 2000 and fled with a group of German, French, Finnish and South African tourists, as well as Malaysian and Filipino resort workers, to Jolo.

A year later, in May 2001, the Abu Sayyaf struck the Dos Palmas resort off Palawan, and brought their hostages to Basilan, an island province about 30 minutes away by speedboat from Zamboanga City.

Efforts to restore Zamboanga have actually began. The Pasonanca Park has had a facelift worthy of its postcard status. The Pilar Shrine still attracts devotees. And the food—the *curacha* crab which tastes like no other—is still as mouth-watering as ever.

Mayor Lobregat believes it wouldn't take much for Zamboanga to be back on its feet. "The Balikatan has been good to us," she says of the controversial six-month RP-US joint war last year. Feeding 300 American soldiers meant P50,000 in food orders per meal. The catering was distributed among hotels and restaurant owners, as was the laundry and other services.

The economic boost was the bonus. *Tita* Caling thinks an improved peace and order situation could mean so much for the city. Naturally, she welcomes Balikatan 03-1, if ever this would be held in the city.

Does she ever get tired? At the Garden show beside the City Tourism office, the Mayor, who turned 82 on April 26, cooled herself among the myriad rare flora. If she was wilting under the sizzling sun, she did it with patrician grace. She even wore hip sunshades, a la Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible 2," which her staff calls her Sabaya look, after the notorious Abu Sabaya.

Security for her had been doubled because there were reports that men loyal to Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chair Nur Misuari were out to kidnap her, and swap her for the detained MNLF leader. But the feisty Lobregat dismisses the report. "I go out at 2 in the morning to patrol the streets," she smirks. "If they really want to get me, they can always get me."

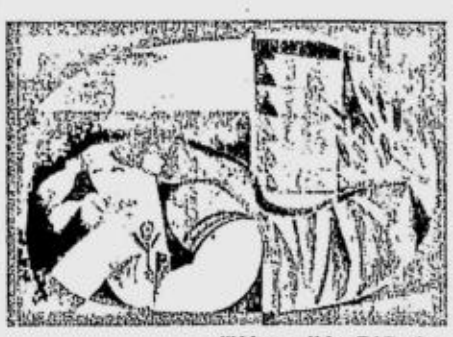
Clothes make the woman: Mayor Lobregat's trademark *kimonas*

envenido M. Noriega Jr.'s **Juan Luna**, Victor Hugo's **Hunchback of Notre Dame**, Henrik Ibsen's **Brand** and the advocacy theater piece, **Lesbian Diaries, Gay Memoirs.** These presentations are available for tours to various schools in Metro Manila. For inquiries, call 722-4205.

Art

Reggie Yuson is holding an exhibit of sculptures, **Moments in Time and Space—New Sculptures**, at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall until June 15.

Finale Art File presents **Picture This,** an exhibit featuring paintings, installations, videos and photographs by 23 young artists at the Art Center, SM Megamall until June 16.



"L'Attesa" **by DiCarlo, on exhibit at Galleria Duemila**

Di Carlo's Women, a solo exhibit by Italian artist Vittorio Maria Di Carlo depicting a newer, more confident and secure Filipina, until June 20 at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, SM Megamall A.

Pardo de Leon and Popo San Pascual pair up in an exhibit of their recent oil on canvas abstract works titled **Left Climate** at the Magnet Gallery, ABS-CBN Compound until June 21.

La Ruche, an exhibit that relates to the history of the Parisian workshop where famous painters Chagall, Modigliani, Soutine developed their talent. The fabulous history of La Ruche as interpreted through several serigraphs realized by French artist Philippe Lagautrière will be on exhibit from June 9-30 at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

Music

The San Miguel Master Chorale celebrates the 105th anniversary of Philippine independence with a travelogue of folk songs from Aparri to Jolo in ***Mga Awiting Bayan*** as part of Music on the Walls, a monthly concert in Intramuros, Manila on June 12, 7 p.m. at Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel, Intramuros, Manila. The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra will also be featured in the concert series. For details, call 632-3699.

Maestro Julian Quirit and award-winning pianist Albert Tiu team up for the first time in a special concert with The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. The acclaimed pianist returns this month for a much-awaited performance with the SMPO in **Eroica: Beethoven's Third** on June 14, 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-5610 or SMFPA at 632-3699.

French Spring in Manila showcases the timeless beauty of classical music through Bombay-born soprano **Aude Priya Wacziarg** who performs with collaborating pianist Florian Bollot on June 15, 3 p.m. at the Captain's Bar. Her impressive talent and versatility is best displayed in opera classics, Broadway hits and French rock opera pieces, which she renders before rapt audiences. Admission is free. For inquiries, please call 750-8888 ext. 2417 or 2418.

Onstage

For its off-season touring productions, Dramatis Personae will continue to bring to different campuses and corporate auditoriums Bienvenido M. Noriega Jr.'s **Juan Luna**, Victor Hugo's **Hunchback of Notre Dame**, Henrik Ibsen's **Brand** and the advocacy theater piece, **Lesbian Diaries, Gay Memoirs.** These presentations are available for tours to various schools in Metro Manila. For inquiries, call 722-4205.

Atbp

Center for Health and Creative Arts offers **Goldies: A Workshop for Older Folks** (60 years old and above). Attend to personal issues and fears of aging and learn how to grow old gracefully, June 10, 17 and 24, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Partnership Center, 59 Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. For details, call 434-5381 or 0919-7405791.

A Walk Through Maps, an art lecture to be given by Dr. Leovino Ma. Garcia on June 14 at 2 p.m. at the Lopez Museum. His lecture includes an insightful view into maps which comes from the unique synthesis of geography, exploration, trade, travel, history, commerce, science and art. Fee is P100. For details, call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

Languages International English teacher Richard Signey delivers talks on **Pnoyspik: Language and Nationalism** before the Rotary Club of San Juan on June 11 at Club Pilipino, and Northwestern University Illinois Alumni chapter on June 18 at the Manila Polo Club. The activity which will go on a campus tour this year features actors Ricky Davao, Ces Quesada, Alma Concepcion, Adriana Agcaoili, Jacques Borlaza, director Behn Cervantes and tenor Ramon Acoymo.

Photoworks, a six-day workshop designed to help you build a strong foundation on the art of photography, will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m., starting June 18 at the 4/F, OAC Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center (near Pearl Drive). For details, call Leo at 0917-9580818.

There will be a Starting a **Preschool/Daycare Center seminar-workshop** on June 14-15, 12-7 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Limited slots available. Seminar fee is P9,995 inclusive of course workbook, meal, snacks and certificate. Reservations accepted until June 13. For details, call 823-2615 or text 0919-8270776.

Learn how to assemble your own PC, configure hardware, install software and basic trouble shooting through a **Computer Assembly workshop** on June 29 (and every last Sunday of the month) at ISIS International, #3 Marunong St., Teacher's Village extension. For information/reservations, call 417-1521 or 0919-740-5199 (Marga).

Dramatis Personae's tour includes "Hunchback of Notre Dame"

X-manila

On June 14, singer-comedian Nanette Inventor and special guest Jon Santos headline **X-tra Laff,** an evening of music and comedy at The Venue in Davao City.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Cafe (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

By Jess Abrera

School Opening Sale

Jollibee's Baby Grows Up

Carmina Villaroel first claimed public attention as the face that lauched a thousand hamburgers

The cover girl of SIM's June 12, 1988 issue, then 12-year-old Carmina "Mina" Muniz Villaroel, was one of the hottest child stars of her generation. Her first movie was with no less than renowned director Ishmael Bernal in *"Pinulot."* But it was in her Jollibee commercial that executive producer Douglas Quijano spotted Carmina's beauty and cast her as Richard Gomez's younger sister on the sitcom *"Palibhasa Lalake."* Carmina's career took off from there, and she remains one of showbiz's household names. Fifteen years later, Carmina has gone through it all, from career lows and scandals to the annulment of her marriage to actor Rustom Padilla. Nowadays, she appears to enjoy better days with partner Zoren Legaspi as she tackles another challenging and fulfilling career path: as doting mother to her twins.

Abigail S. Austriaco

By Joe D' Mango

The Angel on the Radio

From then on I was always waiting for the song to be played again. I fell in love with it, and the sweet, young, humble, shy, angelic voice behind the song

Dear Joe,

I am not the typical person who weaves in and out of relationships. In fact, I never even had a girlfriend. I know that the day will come when my unwritten destiny will lead me to a person to love.

One day, as I was listening to the radio, I heard this soulful song. It seemed to be coming from a sweet, humble angel singing from the heavens. From then on I was always waiting for the song to be played again, waiting for the DJ to announce who sang it. I fell in love with it, and the sweet, young, humble, shy, angelic voice behind the song.

I now tell myself that maybe she is the one. Joe, I think I love her; I love her sweet voice, her angelic face, I love everything about her. I know I love her. I really and honestly do. I know, Joe, that it is impossible for her to feel the same way because I've only seen her in person once—when I brought my copy of her album for an autograph. But, it is enough for me to know what I feel for her is true. But if it comes, if God and destiny permit it, it would be unfair to her. I might not be able to give her all the pleasures the world has to offer.

Joe, maybe I'm just a hopeless romantic trying to fool myself, thinking that someday it'll work as I hoped it would.

Thank you for reading my letter. It may sound so sordid and absurd. Please help me, Joe.

JH

Dear JH,

I don't think there is anything wrong with what you feel for this angelic soul princess. All of us go through a stage when we adore someone whom we believe represents the totality of what we love in a person. This person can be a popular personality, a beautiful face we saw in a movie or magazine or a soothing voice we heard on the radio. He or she can be a total stranger who knows little or nothing of our existence. These people usually inspires us in a positive way to become better persons. They motivate us to improve ourselves in the hope of gaining acceptance.

JH, I believe that it is perfectly normal for a guy to feel this way about someone who is obviously attractive and talented. There is nothing wrong with aspiring for someone as beautiful as she is. But you don't have to be a hopeless romantic. You should be able to draw the line between dreaming and walking in reality.

Let her inspire you in a way that would make you a better person. Don't get caught or trapped in a world that revolves only around her. Life should go on as usual. Let thoughts of her make you smile on a bad day, and let her achievements motivate you to aim for higher goals.

Having someone who gives us a good reason to wake up each morning with happy thoughts can be the most wonderful experience there could be. But remember, this can only be true if you remain in touch with reality. Hopeless romantics can only dream for so long. Go for the things that are within reach but never get tired of aiming higher after each success. Good luck JH, and my best wishes.

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Child Day Care
Child Psychology
Combination Welder
Complete Programming
Computer Engineering
Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
Dental Assistant
Diesel Mechanic
Dressmaking-Pattern-Cutting & Design
Effective English
Electric Motor Rewinding
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Small Business Management
Structural Engineering
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Telecommunications Technician
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